

SAPCA BULLETIN



SOUTH AFRICAN PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION
SUID-AFRIKAANSE PLAAGBEHEERVERENIGING

SAPCA (NPC)

Unusually severe infestation of cockroaches

March 2019



Reports suggest that little impact of control measures are observed, regardless of professional treatments being executed by qualified pest control professionals

As a result of drought and hot weather conditions, cockroaches are more visible and active as they search for food, water and harbourage due to their life cycle speeding up during warmer weather. In addition, it is possible that cockroaches have developed resistance to insecticides being used. For this reason, the importance of the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) cannot be over emphasized.

Pest control is a joint venture between the pest control professional and the client. Given the environmental factors mentioned, and the breeding potential of a cockroach, potential harbourage areas need to be completely eliminated or kept hygienically clean as the faeces and vomitus of the adult female cockroach is essential to the development of the nymphal stages of the immature cockroach.

It is imperative that the client adheres to strict housekeeping and hygiene actions as stipulated in the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act (R364/2015; Section 5.2 a & b).

Food handling and catering facilities in particular, must insist that their suppliers have a professional pest control program in place, as required by the food safety and hygiene regulations. Failure to do this can render treatments ineffective, and inadvertently fresh infestations can be reintroduced to a site. All deliveries must be inspected for signs of infestation.

The pest control professional should assist the client with basic training on how to prevent infestation, and should also offer an additional service to execute an audit at a suppliers premises, in agreement with both the client and the supplier.

SAPCA have established a good working relationship with the Department of Health, and is seeking further assistance with regard to making housekeeping and hygiene in all industries, a priority.

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