

### 3. WHY HAVE COCKROACHS SURVIVED?

Survival

The cockroach seems to be designed perfectly for life in any age. It is just as at home on earth in the twenty-first century as it was in prehistoric times. It's ability to survive over such a long span of time is attributed to their amazing ability to adapt to their environment.

There are about 5,000 species of cockroaches known to man, only about 30 of these live in human homes.



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The rest are mostly tropical and, like their prehistoric ancestors, they live in jungles and forests eating dead leaves and animals.

Other amazing factoids that contribute to their survival:

- They can live without oxygen for several hours.
- A cockroach can hold its breath for up to 40 minutes.
- They can be frozen and thawed out again, and they'll walk away unharmed.
- A cockroach can live for 3 – 4 weeks without its head.
- Cockroaches have teeth in their stomachs.
- A cockroach can change directions up to 25 times in a second.
- Cockroaches can run at the speed of 3 miles per hour.
- Cockroaches spend about 75% of the day just resting.
- Cockroaches breathe through their sides, and not through their nose.
- If a cockroach breaks a leg it can grow another one.



Baker Day Atomic Bomb Test, 25 July 1946

Radiation from atomic bombs may not kill them off. Cockroaches can take 100 times as much radiation as man.