

Hissing Roaches

Carolina™ CareSheet

Immediate care and handling

As soon as your roaches arrive, open the shipping container, remove the cups, and inspect your order.

Habitat Setup and Maintenance

Use a clear plastic container with a secure lid; size is not important because roaches need little room. Cover the bottom with wood chips or bark. Roaches like the dark; add half an egg crate or the cardboard tube from paper towels or toilet tissue to increase hiding space. Feed your hissing roach dry dog or cat food and pieces of fresh fruits and vegetables. Remove moldy food. Provide water in a shallow dish that the roach can crawl out of, or place a soaked cotton ball in a bottle cap. You can use a damp sponge if you are certain it does not contain detergent. (Some packaged sponges already have detergent in them.)

Keep roaches at 20° C (75° F). A heating pad under part of the habitat can provide the needed temperature.

FAQs

How long will my hissing roaches live?

With reasonable care, 6 months to 3 years or longer (depending on age).

How large are the hissing roaches?

They will be about 5 to 7.5 cm (2.5 to 3") long when you receive them and will grow to 7.5 to 9 cm (3 to 3.5").

Our roaches disappeared. Where are they?

Hissing roaches avoid light. Remember to keep them in a dimly lit area. Assuming that the habitat has a tight-fitting lid, they are probably under the wood chips or bark.

Can I use an aquarium net to transfer my hissing roaches to a new habitat?

The roaches can cling so tightly to a net that you will probably pull their legs off when you try to remove them. Instead, catch a roach in a small plastic cup and cover it when making the transfer.

Our roaches have tiny bugs on them. What are they?

They are probably mites, which do not harm them. It is not necessary to remove the mites unless there is a heavy infestation. While gently holding the roach with the thumb and fingers of one hand, spray it with room-temperature, dechlorinated water. Or place 2 to 3 tablespoons of flour in a plastic bag with 1 to 3 roaches. Close bag and gently shake. Most of the mites will drop off. Remove the roaches, blowing off the flour. Return them to the habitat and dispose of bag and flour. After cleaning the roaches, you may have to start over with a fresh habitat.

My roaches have reproduced several times and I have more than I need. What can I do with them?

If other teachers don't want them, consider using some as food for lizards, amphibians, tarantulas, or mantids. As a last resort, chill them and transfer to the freezer for a week. Cover with rubbing alcohol to be certain they are dead before disposal. Hissing roaches are not native to North America, so do not release them.

Problems?

We hope not, but if so, contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

Orders and replacements: Call 800.334.5551, then select Customer Service.

Technical support and questions: E-mail caresheets@carolina.com.



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