

ASK THE NISUS EXPERTS

This month's expert: National Technical Manager **RON SCHWALB**, on controlling cockroaches

1. We hear about resurgence in large cockroach infestations. How would you handle them?

All cockroach control starts with the basics – recognizing their need for food, moisture and warm temperatures to thrive. Once you know where they nest, and where they obtain food and water, you can use products like Niban®, Niban-FG®, Nibor-D® and Boracide™ most effectively. Niban-FG is a fine-granular bait that is excellent in attracting German cockroaches and should be placed in cracks and crevices near areas they are likely to feed or obtain water. You can use a commercial dust applicator or our Snuffer®, a portable, disposable applicator for applications. Niban granular bait can be applied in attics and around perimeters of structures for certain larger cockroach species. Nibor-D dust is an excellent product to dust into wall voids to kill deeper infestations of German cockroaches or into attic soffit areas to kill American roaches, which can be a problem in some southern states.

2. Doesn't granular bait lose its effectiveness quickly?

Actually, Niban and Niban-FG are very long-lasting. While some granular materials break down in moisture, high temperatures or light, or by microbial action, Niban's formulation wraps the boric acid active ingredient in food-based oils, creating a natural resistance to moisture. Niban and Niban-FG can remain attractive to cockroaches for months, making it ideal for use in quarterly and even annual treatment programs.

3. Don't some baits become ineffective due to mold contamination?



Nisus Expert Ronald Schwalb is National Technical Manager. He has more than 30 years of experience in the pest control industry, and belongs to several industry associations and societies focusing on technology and pest management professionalism

PMPs may find with granular baits in moist environments is they can be tainted by mold growth, but Niban granular baits do not have that problem. Their boric acid active ingredient actually acts as a fungicide and resists mold growth. This is definitely an additional benefit for long-term protection.

4. How else can I get more effectiveness against cockroaches within a structure?

What PMPs may find with granular baits in moist environments is they can be tainted by mold growth (see picture). We recommend using Nibor-D as a residual material dusted into wall voids. This way, cockroaches and other insects will pick up

the product and ingest it during grooming. The Nibor-D acts as a stomach toxicant. If you use Nibor-D with the Niban granular baits, you have a long-lasting residual material deep inside wall voids and a long-lasting bait in places where cockroaches are more likely to move and feed.



Niban (left) and a competing bait shown after one week of moisture exposure.

5. What cockroaches are most problematic?

We get calls on American, smoky brown and other larger, peridomestic cockroaches. The Asian cockroaches, found in Florida, look very much like German cockroaches, but live outside, fly and are attracted to light. They can gain entry into structures and can be a real nuisance. We've recommended that PMPs use Niban bait in the landscape mulch and grass for outdoor control, before they are attracted inside. Again, the basics of cockroach management apply, think like a cockroach: go after their harborages, exclude them and repair or clean up persistent problems with moisture and food sources that attract them.

6. Are there concerns with cockroach resistance using Niban, Niban-FG and Nibor-D?

There have been numerous studies on boric acid compounds, the active ingredient in Niban, Niban-FG and Nibor-D. This research has shown no resistance problems, probably because of the mode of action on the insect. Also, borates have been used on roach infestations for over 100 years. When insects ingest it, the material disrupts enzyme activity needed to digest food on a cellular level. In other words, insects can't digest food and absorb it, so they basically starve to death.

Do you have a question on cockroach control for the Nisus Experts?

You can send it three ways:

Email us at nisus@pestcontrolmag.com,

Fax it to **Nisus at Pest Control, 440-891-2675**, or

Mail it to **Nisus at Pest Control, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130.**