Living in Australia: Insects in the home

Insects are a part of life in Australia and play a critical role in maintaining Australia’s biodiversity. Given Sydney’s coastal climate it is guaranteed you will come across insects in the home at some point during your stay with us. Do not be alarmed by this! Listed below are the common insects you will likely come across and the steps you can take to reduce insects in the home.

AUSTRALIA’S MOST COMMON INSECTS

- **Cockroaches** - something you may need to get used to is the occasional cockroach. Insect spray should ward them off for a while, but cockroaches are simply a part of Sydney life and are completely harmless!
- **Spiders** - Most spiders in Sydney are relatively harmless, however there are still some spiders which you do need to be wary of. If you do see a spider indoors, insect spray should work a charm.
- **Ants** - It is impossible to live in or visit Australia without having personal contact with ants. These are just a part of life in Australia. See below advice for reducing ants.
- **Mosquitoes** - Mosquitoes are the pests that come every Summer and love to bite humans. Whilst the bite is only very small and harmless, it can be itchy! If you’re experiencing mosquito bites, it’s best to purchase insect repellent!
- **Lizards** - Whilst lizards are not considered an insect, they are a reptile which are very prevalent in Sydney. Please do not be alarmed! Lizards like to chill in the sun to warm up as they are cold blooded animals, so leave them in peace and they will also leave you alone.

ADVICE FOR DEALING WITH INSECTS IN AUSTRALIA

The Accommodation Office takes steps to reduce the number of insects/pests in your apartment by completing annual pest control both internally and externally, as well as clearing gutters as required. Unfortunately though, it is impossible to completely eliminate all pests. Listed below are steps residents can also do to control any unwanted pests:

- Purchase insect spray or insect bombs from your local supermarket
- Clean up after yourself in the kitchen, ensuring not to leave behind any food on the benches or floor
- Regularly take out the rubbish
- Keep the fly screen on the windows and doors closed - Most insects are attracted to light, so this is particularly important at night and to keep mosquitoes out!
- Regular cleaning of the house to reduce dust build-up.