

# Homemade Roach Traps

*Here are some ideas to get you started as you try your hand at some creative cockroach traps you can make yourself.*

## Duct tape trap

Duct tape is useful for so many things, and you can even use it to make a cockroach trap! Make sure that you have a fresh roll which is still nice and sticky. Unwind a fairly long strip and carefully lay it down with the sticky side facing upwards. Now you need to place a small piece of bait somewhere in the center of the duct tape. Cockroaches are really not particular about what they will eat, but if it has a strong smell they are more likely to be attracted. A wedge of raw onion works well, or a blob of peanut butter or tomato sauce. Now all you need to do is wait for the roaches to walk onto the duct tape and then their legs will become stuck and in a short while you should find your piece of duct tape crawling with trapped cockroaches.



## Glass jar trap

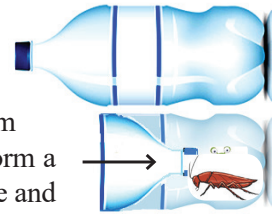
This homemade cockroach trap is a bit easier to handle and move around than the duct tape. All you need is an empty medium sized glass jar such as a mayonnaise or pickle jar. Then you take some petroleum jelly or Vaseline and smear it generously on the inside of the jar just underneath the opening where it curves outwards. This is to prevent the roaches from climbing out after they get inside the jar. It will be too slippery so they will not be able to get a grip and clamber out. Now you drop a little bait into the jar, preferably something with a pungent smell like banana peel, onions or overripe fruit. Just don't put too much in or the roaches might be able to use it to climb or jump out. You might want to wrap the outside of the jar with a few strips of masking tape which will help the cockroaches to climb up and then fall right into the jar where they will be trapped.

## Long-necked bottle trap

This is DIY roach trap variation of the glass jar trap and works in a similar manner, except this time you would use a wine bottle with a long neck. Leave a few teaspoons of red wine or some beer in the bottom of the jar. The fermented smell will attract the roaches and then they will fall down the long neck into the bottom of the bottle and will then be unable to crawl back out again. You might like to smear some oil or Vaseline around the opening of the bottle to ensure a slippery reception for any roaches which might try to get back up.

## Plastic bottle trap

For this kind of cockroach trap you will take an empty plastic cool drink bottle and cut off the top section about a third of the length below the lid. Now smear Vaseline around the inside of the bottom section. Take the part that you just cut off and turn it around, inserting it into the bottom section to form a kind of funnel. Make sure the little lid is off. If the two pieces do not fit snugly together, take some tape and stick them together. Now you can drop a few pieces of bait through the funnel into the bottom section below. Roaches are not fussy about food so anything will do, even dog pellets, or bread with some peanut butter on. Leave your trap out and pretty soon the roaches will be lining up to take their slide down the funnel.



## Margarine tub trap

This is probably the simplest and easiest cockroach trap of all – you don't even need any bait! Take a plastic margarine tub or any similar tub and place about 1/2 inch of water in the bottom. Cockroaches can't live without water for very long so they will be attracted to this water source. But once they fall into the tub they will not be able to climb out and then they will drown in the water.

## How to Maximize Results

For the best results with these cockroach traps you would probably need to use several at a time and place them strategically around your home. Some of the favorite places frequented by roaches would include counter tops, behind kitchen cabinets, next to or under the stove, under the sink or in dark corners. It is important to keep a careful watch on the traps, empty them out and reset them regularly. If you notice that the bait is not being taken in one area, try moving your trap to another place and see if you get a better harvest there.

## Precautions to Take When Using Roach Traps

The great thing about all of these traps described above is that none of them contains harmful or toxic chemicals. Nevertheless, as cockroaches can carry diseases, you might like to wear some gloves when you come to empty out the traps. It is good to keep cleaning them out often. You may want to make sure the roaches are really dead before you just toss them out into the trash (especially if you're using the homemade roach traps).

## Organic Roach Controls

Try using traps in conjunction with other methods of control. Diatomaceous Earth and Boric Acid are two organic insecticides that are effective in controlling cockroaches. Apply these products whenever and wherever roaches are a problem. They are safe to use, and are not harmful to pets or humans. **The secret to success? Persistence!**

