

Handling Your Roaches

There are many ways to handle your roaches. It's important to note that roaches are harmless and not going to bite you. Below we will show three methods for handling roaches, which all work, and should meet everyone's needs.

The first way to handle roaches is to simply pick them up. This may sound easy, but many people have a phobia of roaches. One of the most misleading facts about roaches is that they can spread diseases. This is as far from the truth as could be. Roaches are very clean and are unable to transmit disease like your common mosquito or tick. When handling roaches each species is different. Common pets such as Madagascar Hissing Roaches are relatively calm and easy to handle. Species like *Blaptica dubia* pictured here and *Polyphaga Aegyptica* usually plays dead and tries to curl up like a pill bug. Other *Blaberus* species are very quick and may be a little harder to control. Either way, handling roaches is no different than any other pet, and can definitely be an attention grabber. Little kids really take to a big hisser climbing around on their hand and arm.



The next way to handle a roach is with tweezers. If you just can't bring yourself to pick up that little roach than tweezers are your best friend. Roaches are pretty hardy and can be easily grabbed with tweezers as pictured. Use the tweezers to transfer roaches between cages, or to feed your pets.

The last method is the spoon. I know it sounds funny, but I use a spoon during most of my cleanings. A spoon can be used to transport many of the calmer roaches from container to container. When I clean I knock all my breeders and nymphs off the egg crates into an empty container. Then I scoop a bunch into a large bowl. From there I spoon out the adults back into their breeding bin, and dump the nymphs into another bin. I use the spoon instead of my hand, because with dozens of roaches they start climbing you arm and end up everywhere.



Hopefully one of these methods will work for you when handling your roaches. If you have any other ways that work well for you that I can add to the list, please email them to me at james@blaberus.com.