

Ants

Pest control facts – Ants



Pharaoh ants

The pharaoh ant is a tiny ant, dull-yellowish to light orange in colour and not much more than 1/16 inch (1.58mm) long.

They prefer warm areas for nesting.

Nesting sites include dark voids:

- walls
- cracks in woodwork
- stacks of paper
- envelopes
- under appliances
- under carpets

They're often found near moisture such as kitchens and bathrooms.

Ants travel from room to room within the walls along the plumbing pipes or electrical wiring.

Food ants eat



Pharaoh ants are found where food is available.

They will eat almost anything and can easily get in to unopened packages.

Pharaoh ants trail each other and are attracted to:

- greasy or fatty foods
- meats
- sugary foods
- other dead insects

They're also attracted to freshly used bandages or soiled nappies.

Because of their eating habits, they can contaminate food by wandering over it.

How can I get rid of them?

Treating for pharaoh ants yourself can make the problem worse.

If the ants are under attack they will split up and make several new colonies.

A qualified pest controller should perform treatment.

Garden ants



Garden ants are harmless and are not a public health pest.

They usually make their nests outdoors in:

- lawns
- flowerbeds
- beneath paving stones
- at the base of walls.

During summer, winged females (Queens) and males leave the nest on one or two warm afternoons and take flight.

During this flight the ants mate.

They sometimes fly inside buildings.

Worker ants usually go in to houses for food.

They like food that is sweet and sugary.

When one ant finds food, there will soon be others and a trail of worker ants taking the food back to the nest.

What can you do?

We recommend that householders should treat for garden ants themselves.

If possible, trace the trail of worker ants to the nest.

You can usually see the opening to the nest by small piles of fine earth surrounding the entrance.

If you can, pour boiling water into the nest.

If you can't trace the nest, use an insecticidal dust or spray.

The label should state that is for controlling crawling insects outside.

Pay special attention to areas such as:

- doorframes
- airbricks
- waste pipes

Try to create an insecticidal barrier.

If you find ants indoors

The same insecticide can be used.

You need to remember that most shop bought products contain [Permethrin](#).

Permethin is a repellent (which means that once put down, it can cause the ants to relocate in the garden)

Please make sure that you:

- follow the instructions on the label carefully.
- ensure it is safe for use around young children and pets
- take care not to contaminate food with insecticide
- check the product clearly states that it's suitable for use in and around the home.

Service we provide

We do offer a service for the treatment of ants when the problem exists within the property

The pest control officer will make an assessment and treat accordingly

Treatment will be placed along ant runs, cracks and crevices within the property