



The Facts on Common House Ants

Q: WHAT IS A COMMON HOUSE ANT?

A: Pavement ants are tiny, brown to black ants that range in size from 1/20 inch long to 1/2 an inch long. They have an unevenly shaped thorax and two nodes, or bumps, between the thorax and abdomen. These very social insects typically reside underground and are considered one of the most common household pests in our area. Other common ants include the carpenter ants and the pharaoh ants.



Q: WHY DO I HAVE ANTS IN MY HOME?

A: Ants can be active in your home and other buildings year round. Ants are soil dwellers and survive beneath the concrete slabs of heated buildings. Ants can enter through the tiniest cracks, seeking water or in search of sweets, fats, and proteins. Ants have a wide variety of nesting habits and food preferences. Ants then leave an invisible chemical trail which contains pheromones for other ants to follow once they locate the food source. Some ants build nests in soil, producing characteristic mounds while others nest in homes behind moldings, baseboards, countertops, and similar places. Colonies can number up to 300,000 to 500,000 ants and whole colonies can uproot and relocate quickly when threatened. A colony can live a relatively long lifetime. Worker ants may live seven years, and the queen may live as long as 15 years.

Q: WHAT DO ANTS DO?

A: Pavement ants are primarily a nuisance and cause little damage. Although there are no diseases associated with these ants, they may infest food and grow in number to infestation level quickly.

Q: HOW DO I GET RID OF ANTS?

A: The key to getting rid of ants is to eliminate their nest. Killing the ants you see is helpful, but doesn't get to the root of the problem. That's why solving the issue can actually be difficult. If the nest is not destroyed, the ants will keep coming back.

PREFERRED PEST CONTROL is the most effective way to ensure your property is kept free of ants.



Q: HOW CAN I PREVENT ANTS IN THE FUTURE?

A: Trying to discourage ants from invading the home can be frustrating. Proper food storage and waste management will reduce the food that often attracts worker ants indoors. Store food in airtight containers and keep as much of it as possible in places that are difficult for ants to access (like the refrigerator or freezer). Clean all kitchen surfaces, vacuum regularly. Rinse dishes or containers before allowing them to sit in your sink. Pay attention to your baseboards or cracks. Don't leave food sitting in your trash can – use a garbage disposal or take your trash out as soon as possible. Call 816-279-2000 as soon as you spot them to prevent a larger need for ant pest control services.