

ANTS: SMALL BUT MIGHTY

While they may be small in size, ants are notoriously difficult to control. To stop these pests in their tracks, you need to understand their behaviour.

SOCIAL INSECTS



COLONIES

Ants can form huge colonies, sometimes with more than 500,000 individuals. If they sense a threat, ants will warn the colony to disperse and relocate.



COLLABORATION

Ever notice that ant trails seem to pop out of nowhere? When they find food, ants leave chemical scent trails for others in their colony to follow.

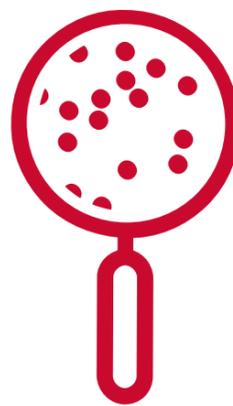


CASTES

Each ant is assigned a role. The foragers you see outside a colony represent only 3-10% of the population.

WHERE TO FIND THEM

Not all ants are alike. Depending on the species, there are several places you could find ants around your property. Here are some that you should keep an eye on:



- Food preparation and dining areas
- Hidden, protected places like wall voids, under appliances and beneath floors
- Laundry areas
- Warm or humid places like near drains, pipes and wiring
- Under pavement or stones outdoors

PREVENTION TIPS



INSPECTION

- Look for potential food sources and entry points
- Check the exterior foundation for foraging ants, loose piles of soil, debris and cracks



EXCLUSION

- Seal cracks, gaps and holes in doors, windows and walls
- Install or replace door sweeps and weather stripping



SANITATION

- Follow a comprehensive, daily sanitation routine
- Make sure all food is put away in airtight containers
- Empty wash bins and trash cans often
- Remove spilled garbage, grease and exposed food waste around the dumpster corral



MAINTENANCE

- Keep vegetation trimmed back and at least 60 centimetres away from buildings

COMMON SPECIES



CARPENTER ANTS

- Most likely to cause structural damage as they chew through wood to make room for their nests
- Found near areas with damp wood



PAVEMENT ANTS

- Leave trails from their nest to food sources for others to follow and can sting humans
- Found under sidewalks, driveways and foundations



PHARAOH ANTS

- Difficult to control because they can forage away from the nest and are resilient against conventional control methods
- Found in warm, humid places indoors



EUROPEAN FIRE ANT

- Aggressive and one of the few common ants with a painful sting
- Found in moist soil and under rocks, logs or other natural debris



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