

CARPENTER ANTS

What you need to know

Carpenter ants are one of the largest ants we have here. While the workers vary in size within a colony, they range from 1/8" to 1/2" long. They may be black, black and red, red, or brown.

Carpenter ants will build their nest within a home preferring damaged wood, foam, or existing cavities. Outside you can find them nesting inside trees and wood. The ants do not eat the wood, but excavate tunnels and galleys through it.

While ants you find inside may just be looking for food, a large number of winged ants suggest that an established nest is inside the house. Other evidence of nest activity is wood shavings the ants have removed from the tunnels, and sometime if the nest is large enough you can hear them.

What we do

A very thorough treatment inside and outside of the house is required. Treatment consists of a variety of products the best fit the problem at hand. An aerosol product would be used to probe for nest activity, a dust may be used in applicable areas, and residual sprays are commonly used.

What you can do

Maintain and repair wood in your home, this includes but is not limited to the roof, floors, window frames, shower and tub areas, laundry rooms, and water leaks in bathrooms and kitchens.

Keep an eye out for travel paths that can indicate where the nest may be located.

Reduce accessible food that may be attracting activity.

As a safety precaution during treatment you should be out of the home and remain out for 4 to 6 hours after treatment. This includes pets as well. Most aquarium pets are very susceptible to the chemicals used so ask about extra precautions if applicable.

PAVEMENT ANTS

What you need to know

We actually lump a variety of small ants into this group because they behave in a similar manner, are not destructive and are treated for in the same way.

These ants are basically 1/16" to 1/8" long, and brown or black in color. The nests are located outside but frequently forage for food indoors. They will eat a variety of protein and sugar based foods. You can find them anywhere in the house, but will usually be found in kitchens.

What we do

We recommend treating the inside of the house as necessary, but the exterior of the home is the primary focus of treatment. A protective band of chemical is applied around the house, as well as around doors, windows and other likely entrance points.

PHARAOH ANTS

What you need to know

Pharaoh ants are very tiny, about 1/16" long, or about the length of this line _ . They are yellow to brownish in color and are very hard to see individually. They will eat just about anything. A female may produce up to 300 eggs in her life and they take about 40 days to develop into adults.

Colonies are easily split as queens mates in the colony and leaves with a portion of the main nest to a new location.

What we do

We use bait that has been specially formulated for pharaoh ants throughout the home while concentrating on the areas that activity has been found. The bait will be put in a variety of places including behind switch plates and electrical plates, and along computer or telephone wires.

Treatments can be slow and may require a few visits.

What you need to do

Be Patient.

Do NOT use any types of aerosols or sprays to treat for pharaoh ants. They can actually make the problem worse by causing a colony to split up.

Turn down the heat. Most insects like it warm and will breed more when the temperatures are high. Pharaoh ants can set up a colony just about anywhere so take a look around to see if there is one you can remove. We have found colonies in unlikely places like HVAC vents and cereal boxes.

The most important thing to do after a treatment for pharaoh ants is to NOT kill them. You have to let them take the bait back to their nest or you will never get rid of them. The more ants you kill the longer you will have them.