









# Key Ant Pests:

## HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM AND CONTROL THEM

Ant Species	Why a Key Pest?	Identification	Control Strategies
<b>Odorous House Ant</b> 	Will nest indoors in voids, have large colonies, and found throughout most of the U.S.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/8 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Workers are black to brownish black. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Outdoors under stones & around trees/shrubs. Will nest indoors or in subareas.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> Have a distinct odor when crushed. Trim tree branches that touch structures. Treat with gel baits and concentrates. Treat structures, trails and the base of trees. Treat nest directly when located.
<b>Fire Ant</b> 	Public health pest due to stings, can damage electrical systems and mounds are located outdoors.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/8 to 1/4 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Reddish head & thorax, brown/black abdomen. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Domed-shaped mounds are located outdoors, rarely come indoors.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> Move in uniform trails along trees, cable lines or on the ground. Reduce conducive conditions. Use mostly granular bait applications and concentrates. Treat identified mound locations.
<b>Carpenter Ant</b> 	Wood destroying organism that can nest indoors in structures. Found throughout the entire U.S.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/4 to 1/2 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Workers are black or bi-colored red and black. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Often found on trees or structures with moisture-damaged wood.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> Frass [piles of discharged wood] is often present indoors. Trim tree branches that touch structures. Treat with granular baits and liquid concentrates. Treat structures, utility lines, trails and the base of trees.
<b>Argentine Ant</b> 	Large colonies with multiple nests that can extend for miles, making them difficult to control.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/8 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Workers are light to dark brown. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Prefer Mediterranean-type habitats around moisture sources.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> Well-defined trails can be more than 3 ants wide. Trim tree branches that touch structures. Treat with liquid and gel baits and concentrates. Treat structures, trails and base of trees.
<b>Pavement Ant</b> 	Nest close to structures, under rocks, or next to driveways and are a nuisance to homeowners.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/8 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Workers are dark brown to black. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Found along edges of concrete brick and asphalt driveways and sidewalks.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> Pronounced grooves on head and thorax. Treat structures, trails, under rocks, and next to concrete and asphalt driveways.
<b>Rover Ant</b> 	Can be found indoors and outdoors. Traditional methods of controlling rover ants often fail. They can be difficult to find in structures.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/16 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Workers are dark brown to black. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Often found in potted plants.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> Very tiny, robust ant that appear jet black when viewed from a distance. Reduce conducive conditions. Treat trails and entry points with liquid concentrates.
<b>Little Black Ant</b> 	Can be found indoors and outdoors, will often nest indoors due to environmental factors, and colonies are often small and difficult to locate indoors.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/16 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Workers are a shiny black to brownish black. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Found around trees, under stones, in wall voids, cabinets and foundation material.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> Thorax uneven in shape, they travel in defined trails and are slow moving. Remove conducive conditions. Treat trails and entry points with liquid concentrates.
<b>Black Crazy Ant</b> 	Have large colonies that invade structures, lawns and vehicles, have been known to damage electrical equipment and displace other ants.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/8 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Workers are black. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Found indoors and outdoors, often near trash sites, plant and tree cavities and rotten wood.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> Long antennae and legs and do not have uniform trails. Remove all ground cover. Reduce conducive conditions. Use liquids, gels or granular baits and concentrates. Use broadcast treatments.
<b>Pharaoh Ant</b> 	Public health pest that typically nests indoors, can be difficult to locate indoors. Notorious for budding if disturbed and having satellite colonies.	<b>SIZE:</b> 1/16 inch <b>COLOR:</b> Workers are yellowish light brown to reddish. <b>COMMON HABITAT:</b> Found behind baseboards, cabinets and wall voids, window sills and under floors.	<b>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:</b> All workers are the same size, and poor eyesight. Reduce conducive conditions. Treat with gel baits and concentrates. Treat trails when located.