

Ant Control

Ants can be found in your home or outside throughout most of the year. It is in the spring and again in the fall when I get the most phone calls on ants invading homes.

Ants will come out in the spring and in the fall and find their way into homes. In the spring they emerge early and have to find a place that is warm at night and has food. Many people do not realize where the ants are coming from, which can make control difficult. Ants will find any tiny crack in the foundation of your home or any holes around doors or windows to find their way into your home. Once inside, they become a real nuisance to our way of life. Most common house ants are probably odorous house ants. These are very tiny ants that are reddish-brown to black and if you crush them they smell bitter. These are typically found all over homes especially in the kitchen.

Control of ants can be done through multiple techniques. If you can find the colony, the best control method would be to treat the colony. If you do not know where the ants are coming from and cannot locate the colony, you can still control them. In general, ants are typically either sweet eaters or grease eaters. To control ants you need to determine which type of feeder that ant is. There are bait stations for both grease eaters and sweet eaters and there are bait stations that are both baits in one station.

These bait stations work adequately. However, these are typically a dry, hard material that the ants do not like as well as other foods. The point of the bait station is to make it something that the ant likes to eat so they come to it, pick it up and bring it back to the colony, killing all of the ants including the queen. If they do not take the bait back to the colony, you will continue to have ant problems through the spring, summer, and fall. A better option for bait stations for ants is to use the liquid ant bait stations or simply using liquid ant baits on a piece of cardboard. This type of bait is more desirable than the hard baits, it is similar to the difference between a steak and a hamburger for most humans.

At this time of the year, actually it was much earlier this year than most, we tend to get the flying reproductives of the ants as well as termite flying reproductives. The flying reproductives of both ants and termites usually come out in swarms and match up a male and female who will break off from their original colony to find a location and start a new colony. This situation always seems to frighten people because they are worried that these little flying things are termites and not ants. Termites can do a lot more damage to a home than an ant can. They both fly at about the same time in the spring and in the fall of the year. The biggest, most noticeable difference, between ants and termites is that ants have elbowed antennae, so if you can see the antennae look for an elbowed bend in it for it to be an ant. If you are unsure, bring a couple into the office for me to identify.

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