

## HOW TO CONTROL

# *Ants*

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ANTS FREQUENTLY ARE a nuisance both inside and outside the home. There are many kinds that vary widely in their habits. The common forms make small mounds on lawns and sidewalks and are familiar to everyone, but there are less common mound-builders that form earthen structures a foot or more high and several feet in diameter. One important species, the carpenter ant, builds its galleries in wood, locating nests in trees, telephone poles and wooden structures of various kinds. The damage that it causes often is mistaken for the work of termites. Several species invade homes in search of food. In some cases they establish nests in the house, but more commonly nest outside, often at some distance from the building.

An ant colony is divided into several castes. The majority of the individuals are workers who gather food, store it, and feed inside workers, the queen, and the larvae. The queens establish new colonies and lay the eggs. At certain times winged ants, the males and females, leave the nest on a mating flight. The mass emergence of winged forms often is the first evidence of an ant infestation in a home.

Many species of ants feed extensively on the honeydew produced by aphids (plant lice). When ants are seen streaming up and down the trunk of a tree or clustered on its leaves they usually are tending "ant cows." Some ants tend aphids that feed on plant roots. They take honeydew from the aphids, and in return they transport the aphids from one plant to another. Thus, the presence of large numbers of ants on or about plants commonly indicates an aphid infestation. They, not the ants, should be controlled.

Ants may be controlled by the use of poison baits, or better, by the application of an insecticide to the nest or runways. Poison baits, if attractive to the particular species, may kill most of the ants in a colony, for the workers carry the bait back to the queen and young. A number of ant baits are on the market. In some cases ants do not take a bait readily or baits may not be practical for other reasons. Under these circumstances the application of insecticides is recommended. Two materials, chlordane and lindane, have controlled ants well when used properly.

When faced with an ant control problem, attempt first to locate the nest or a runway used by the ants as they come and go from the nest. Sometimes this requires persistence and ingenuity. Once this is done, spray or dust an insecticide where it will do the most good.

When ants are causing trouble in a home chlordane or lindane can be used either as dusts or sprays. Brushing or spraying with a liquid formulation often is the best method for the home. Apply the insecticide directly on the surface to be treated and do not allow it to contaminate food or food containers.

Use chlordane either as a 2 per cent solution in a refined oil or as a chlordane emulsion concentrate which can be diluted to the same strength with water. Dilute 3/4 cup of a 40-45 emulsion concentrate with one gallon of water.

Use lindane at a 1/4 to 1/3 per cent concentration. Prepare the solution by mixing 4 tablespoons of a 20 per cent lindane emulsion concentrate to a gallon of water.

Carpenter ants are large black or black and reddish colored ants. When they have established themselves in a tree, telephone pole, or some part of a building it is advisable to treat the ground around the nest. Spray or dust into the holes or cracks by which the ants enter and leave their galleries. Use chlordane as a 5 or 6 per cent dust, or apply chlordane or lindane as diluted emulsion concentrates.

You can control ants in lawns and gardens by applying 2 to 6 per cent chlordane dusts directly to the hills. If the hills are numerous the dust can be sprinkled over the infested area. Use  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of a 5 per cent chlordane dust to 1,000 square feet - the equivalent of about five pounds of actual chlordane per acre. The treated area should be watered after being dusted to wash the poison into the soil and to prevent it from being blown away. Treat large mounds either by dusting thoroughly or by pouring a 5 per cent mixture of an emulsion concentrate into holes made in the mounds.

Golf courses and estates equipped with power sprayers can be treated by spraying with chlordane emulsion concentrate at the rate of 5 pounds of chlordane per acre. If a 40-44 per cent concentrate containing 4 pounds of chlordane is used, it can be applied at the rate of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  gallons in 100 gallons of water per acre.

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