



PREVENTION TIPS FOR ANTS



The presence of ants in any facility do more than make a bad impression, ants can contaminate food and sterile areas, damage equipment, and cause electrical disruption. Certain species of ants can even sting or bite, posing serious health risks to people with allergic reactions. Pests of any kind are bad for business making it important to take steps towards maintaining a pest-free facility..

Identification and biology

- Body size and color can vary ranging from red, black, brown, and yellow-brown. Proper ID helps to determine which product to use.
- All ant species have a body that is divided into three sections: the head, thorax, and abdomen; six legs; and two antennae, bent like an elbow.
- Flying ants are called swarmers. They have two sets of wings that are different in size. Termites have two sets of wings that are the same size.

Where they show up

Ants can be found inside or outside a facility, but tend to seek out areas providing food and water.

What to do

Collect an intact ant specimen, place it in a small container, and add sanitizer or put it in the freezer. This will help your Rentokil technician identify the ant, locate the source, and determine the best solution.

Prevention Tips

- Trim back vegetation to prevent ants from accessing structures.
- Wipe down areas of ant activity with soapy water to eliminate any pheromone trails left behind. Ants leave pheromone trails for other ants to follow.
- Avoid using natural mulch, such as pine straw and imported mulch in areas adjacent to buildings. A good alternative is lava rock or stone.
- Avoid ant mounds. Fire ant stings are very painful.
- Store firewood and old equipment away from buildings. Ants may use them to temporarily take refuge.
- Maintain a daily cleaning schedule to eliminate spills and other debris that can attract ants.
- Clean interior and exterior waste holding areas weekly, removing food and water sources.
- Store food in sealed containers to reduce ant infestations.
- If pets are on site, ensure food and water bowl areas remain tidy and that food is not left out for long periods of time.

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