



In need of some assistance with an ant infestation?

Call us today

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ANTS: Pest Advice

London Network for Pest Solutions Ltd provides information leaflets on the following pests:

Rats • Mice • Cockroaches • Squirrels • Bed Bugs • Wasps •
Flies • Fleas • Moths • Ants • Foxes • Birds • Spiders

What do ants look like?

Ants are part of the insect family and have a body divided into three, six legs and a pair of antennae. Minuscule but mighty, an average ant is only four to six millimetres long but can carry between 10 and 50 times its own body weight! Britain's bad weather and colder climate mean that only a few dozen ant species have made our island their home, with the most common being the black Garden Ant.

Where do ants live?

As hugely social creatures, ants live in colonies of thousands, in nests usually made from damp soil and twigs which form a small 'mound' or entrance hole on the ground in forests, parks and occasionally, your garden! Nests are crucial to a colony's survival, providing shelter from predators and inclement British weather, as well as protecting the egg-laying Queen.

What do ants eat?

Almost anything and everything! Ants are omnivores, meaning that as well as enjoying the usual suspects of fruit, vegetation, nectar and seeds, some species of ants also have an appetite for eating other insects and decaying sources of protein. Almost all ants are opportunistic foragers, which make summer picnics and kitchens a haven for the average ant, with stray crumbs, sugary sticky spills and open containers especially tempting.



DID YOU KNOW?

Due to their small size, ants don't have lungs and instead, breathe through a series of holes located on the sides of their bodies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ants have two stomachs; one to store food for themselves and the second to hold food to be shared with other ants. This process is called trophallaxis.

Are ants bad for my health?

An ant infestation is more a nuisance than a danger, with no significant risk of serious disease or infection associated with ants, although it's unlikely you want to share your snacks with the little critters. There is a small chance that ants may pick up germs whilst on the move and could potentially contaminate food with common infections, such as salmonella and staphylococcus.

What are the signs of infestation?

Thankfully, you're unlikely to find ants in your pants, with your kitchen the most likely scene of the crime. As foragers, ants will travel to find new food sources, leaving behind a chemical trail for others to follow, which is why you might see a line of ants marching across your work tops – a definite clue of an infestation. Presence of ants is the number one indication that you have an ant problem, but it's also worth having a look around the perimeter of your property for signs of an ant nest nearby.

How can I stop ants from invading my home?

There are some simple tips 'n' tricks that you can follow to minimise the likelihood of an ant invasion. Store food in air-tight containers, clean up spills, crumbs and dirty dishes immediately and wipe down surfaces daily. Keep floors clean and seal up any noticeable cracks or crevices in doors and windows to block any potential entry points.

How to get rid of an ant infestation

DIY removal isn't recommended, as most over-the-counter treatments won't adequately tackle the root of the infestation. Only a pest professional can establish the true extent of your ant problem. A pest controller will be able to correctly identify what type of ant is invading your home and which treatment is best suited to eradicate the problem, effectively and efficiently.

Once the source of infestation has been properly treated, you can continue with a home programme of prevention to maintain an ant-free zone.

