

Ants

An informative guide for residents...



Are ants a problem?

Garden ants can find the smallest of cracks in buildings, and if they locate a source of food within the building they communicate this to other ants and then lead them into the building to feed. During the summer, the flying stages of the ants may be seen emerging from the nest in large numbers. This event normally lasts for only a few days.

Are garden ants a health hazard?

Garden/black ants are not regarded as a significant risk to public health.

However they can be a nuisance when found in the home.

Are they a hazard?

Nests are typically found in soil but may be under paving stones and concrete. When ants have nested indoors, infestations may cause problems at any time of the year. In such circumstances, their nests are usually found in the insulation layer below a property.

The garden ant can pose a real problem as a nuisance pest. During foraging, workers may be found in domestic and industrial premises searching for sugary food sources. The mating swarms can also be a short term nuisance.



Control measures

Remove the food sources, ie ensure that sugary foods are kept in sealed containers and that all food and drink spillages are cleared up immediately.

Accessibility to the nests may be restricted and yet this is the key to gaining control of the infestation. Following trails of worker ants back to the nest should help to locate their position. Gel baits are now available for black garden ants. These rely on the worker ants picking up the bait and taking it back to the nest to feed the queen.

Therefore baits should not be used in conjunction with residual sprays. Baits are best placed where the ants are foraging - in an around nest entrances, adjacent to ant trails and in cracks and crevices between paving slabs, concrete foundations etc.

Alternatively, residual insecticidal treatments can be applied

in or around the nest. Barriers of insecticide may also be utilised around strategic points on a property to prevent foraging workers gaining access. Good hygiene so as to reduce attraction for ants is also important.

Happy to help

We are available to offer advice or to deal with your pest problem.



Swift, confidential and professional service.

All our staff are RSPH level 2 qualified and are members of Basis Prompt, the Professional Pest Controllers Register with more than 50 years experience.



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for more information**