

ANTS: PREVENTION TIPS

The presence of ants in any facility can make a bad impression, but did you know that ants can contaminate food and sterile areas, damage equipment, and cause electrical disruptions? Some 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. Which is why maintaining a pest-free facility is so important.

ID and biology

- Body size and color can vary ranging from black, brown, yellow-brown, and red. Proper identification 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 you might see them

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

What you can do to help

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

Tips for prevention

- 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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