

Rentokil

The Experts in Pest Control

Tips for the prevention of common ants

Ants are an unsightly presence in any facility – but their impact goes far beyond giving employees, clients, and guests a bad impression. Ants can easily contaminate food and sterile areas, damage equipment, and even cause electrical disruptions! Some species can bite or sting, causing a threat to people, especially children and the elderly, as well as other small animals.

Where you might see them

- Ants can be found almost anywhere inside or outside a facility, especially where food and water are present. Different species have different nesting and foraging habits.
 - If you have an ant issue, try to obtain a sample of the ant in a glass or plastic container. Mark the container with the location where you caught the ant and the time of day. This will aid your Rentokil Service Specialist in identifying the ant, finding the source, and determining the best solution.
- Avoid using natural mulch, such as pine straw, in ornamental areas adjacent to buildings. This type of mulch serves as a perfect hiding place for ants. Ants can also be introduced to your property via mulch imported from elsewhere. Instead, opt for lava or egg rock.
 - Store firewood and old equipment in areas away from the building. Ants sometimes take refuge in these items; if they are moved away from your facility, they are less likely to enter the building.
 - Inside, practice good sanitation. Develop and maintain a daily cleaning schedule to eliminate spills and other debris that can attract ants.
 - Clean exterior garbage areas at least weekly to remove food and water sources. This includes dumpster and dumpster pad areas.
 - Utilize food storage containers to prevent food contamination. Food stored in containers is less likely to attract to ants through odors.

Tips for prevention

- Maintain exterior vegetation, trimming it back so it does not touch buildings. Ants sometimes use vegetation as a roadway to access structures.
- Ants leave pheromone trails for other ants to follow. If you see ants inside your facility, a quick fix is to wipe down areas of activity with soap and water to eliminate the trail.



Identification and biology

- Body size and color can vary between species. Identifying which species is present at your facility is critical for your Rentokil Service Specialist to determine the right elimination methods.
- All ant species have a body that is divided into three distinct sections: the head, thorax, and abdomen. An ant's "waist" looks constricted.
- Ant antennae are elbowed; they do not resemble a string of pearls.
- Some species have adults that swarm and fly. These "swarmers" have fore and hind wings that are of a different shape and size; ant swarmers can be confused with termites, which have fore and hind wings of the same shape.

For a **FREE** consultation and inspection contact
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