



## **Tips for Managing Nuisance Ants**

### **Description**

- Size and color varies by species, 1/8-1/10 inch. Common ant species found in homes include: pavement ant, little black ant, and cornfield ant.

### **Prevention**

- Keep kitchen area clean, dry, and free of grease.
- Promptly clean up food and drink spills.
- Rinse recyclable cans and bottles and store in pest-proof containers.
- Keep pet and human food in pest-proof containers.
- Empty wastebaskets frequently.
- Block access. Seal cracks in the foundation and block entrances around pipes, vents, wires, etc.
- Keep screens, weatherstripping, and door sweeps in good repair.
- Promptly repair leaks and moisture problems.
- Clean gutters.
- Keep trees, shrubs, and mulch at least 12 inches away from the house.
- If grass grows up to the house, keep it mowed low.

### **Management**

- Kill wandering ants found indoors.
- Trace ant trails to entry. Seal entry and remove food source. Vacuum ants. Wash

trail with soapy water to remove scent released by ants to lead others.

- Use sticky cardboard traps or glue boards to detect new infestations.
- Destroy ant nests located where people are at high risk from bites. Poke holes in the nest while slowly pouring in soapy water.

Continue pouring in the soapy water while opening the nest



until no live ants are seen.

### **Least Risk Pesticides**

Place boric acid bait tamper-proof ant ‘traps’ or ‘cups’ in ant runways (but keep away from children and pets). Use extreme caution to minimize hazards when using boric acid and other pesticides.

### **Further Management Options**

Contact the Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office (1-800-287-0279), your county Extension office, or visit <http://www.gotpests.org/>.

**Photo credits:** Odorous House Ant: Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org; Eggs & Adults: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org.

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<http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/ipmcouncil>

*Promoting least risk pest control for  
a greener environment.*

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