Pavement Ants

BIOLOGY

Pavement ants (also known as sweet ants, sugar ants and slab ants) can usually be identified by their

physical appearance, large numbers and foraging behavior. Pavement ants are small measuring 1/10-1/8 of an inch. They range in color from light brown to black.

Homeowners often confuse pavement ants with larger wood destroying carpenter ants, particularly when they swarm from their nesting sites. Winged pavement ants are approximately 3/8 of an inch long while winged carpenter reproductives are 3⁄4-1 inch in length.

Pavement ants often enter homes searching for food. They generally nest in sandy soil beneath a protected area. Telltale mounds of sand are often seen in the cracks of sidewalks, driveways and next to foundations. Occasionally pavement ants can be found in lawns or other grassy areas where very large nests will 'bubble' out of the ground.

Pavement ant nests are 2-5 feet below grade which protects them from freezing temperatures. When these nests are beneath slab foundations, patios, garage floors etc. they can only be controlled.

Fully developed nests often contain 3,000-10,000 ants. The nest contains different castes of ants. There are foragers, workers, guards and reproductive forms (alates). The alates are winged males and females.

They swarm from the nest when the colony has matured or cannot hold more ants. They are often seen swarming in large numbers in late July through August; however, it is not unusual to see winged ants during the winter months.

Like other ant species, pavement ants are cold blooded. They are highly influenced by slight temperature changes. As the ambient temperature within their nesting sites rise, their body temperatures rise accordingly.

Their elevated body temperatures cause the ants to seek water otherwise they dehydrate and die. This explains why we often see ants shortly after a warming trend or when we warm our homes.

Pavement ant invasions actually begin in the fall. As the temperatures outside begin to cool, the ants search out warmer climes to spend the winter months. If your home has a slab as part of it's foundation or a large concrete patio outside, it is a prime nesting site.

Slab floors (and foundations) retain the heat very well. As a result, the soil beneath slab floors and adjacent foundations remains at a relatively constant temperature. This moderate environment is an ideal nesting site for pavement ants.

As winter approaches we turn our thermostats up which warms our floors and foundations which radiates heat into the area beneath our floors. This slight temperature change causes the ants to search out food and water.

TREATMENT

Because access to their nesting sites is usually restricted, we rely on the ant's own behavior to control them.

We may use a combination of baits, residual products and crack and crevice treatments. The specific treatment will vary from home to home taking into account, the nesting site, the floor plan,construction, the time of year, and area where the activity is occurring.

When pavement ants leave their nesting site in search of food and water, they lay down a 'pheromone trail'. This scent trail allows the ants to return to their nests. This is why ants are seen in trails across our floors.

The residual products used in your home are designed to take advantage of this foraging behavior. The ant's crossing over this applied barrier will die.

Whenever possible, baits are used to supplement the residual products. Pavement ants have a 'crop stomach', which is used to transport food and water back to the nest. The ants carry the bait to ants on the nest where they feed and ultimately die. However, baiting alone will not eradicate the entire colony. It is simply another tool used for control.

Occasionally pavement ants will become displaced. They may crawl under flooring and appear in another area of your home that was not treated. Should this occur, simply call for an appointment.

Once pavement ants have established nesting sites around your home, they can be very persistent. A preventative maintenance program is the best defense against future invasions.

Keeping floors and heating vents free of food, rinsing bottles before recycling and regular cleaning will reduce the number of ants you see inside your home.

ABOUT YOUR TREATMENT

Our Technicians are licensed and certified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. All have special training in residential pest control and prevention.

Sound product management is the key to an effective pest control program. We have carefully selected different products for use in and around your home. Each product has it's own unique properties and characteristics. Some products are designed to kill ants on contact while other are designed to last for an extended period of time.

The residual products used inside your home are formulated to kill and according to body weight. We only use the amount necessary to control the ants.

Because residual products and baits are designed for long-term control, the ants must come in contact with the products or ingest the bait. These products ***DO NOT REPEL ANTS.***

Please read and follow the written & verbal instructions. They have been designed to maximize the effectiveness of the products used in and around your home in an environmentally safe and responsible manner. In addition to the written instructions, please follow any other recommendations your technician has made.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Keep children and pets away from all treated areas for 2 hours or until dry.**
2. **You have been advised of those ares we have treated. The inside treatment is a waster based product. It kills ants according to body weight.**
3. **The inside treatment will last 3-4 weeks. During this period you may see ants. They will die within 2-6 hours.**
4. **Pleas stay 2 inches away from the treated areas will ALL cleaning equipment for the 3-4 week time period.**
5. **Because of pavement ant nesting behavior, we may have to retreat your home. After 3-4 week time period, if you are seeing live activity, please call for an appointment.**
6. **If your home's exterior was treated a protective barrier has been applied. Ants crossing this protective barrier will die within 12-24 hours.**

Note: For your health and safety, only products registered with the EPA were used in your home. They were applied in a strict accordance with the manufacturer's label instructions.

Call / text: 810-728-5858 | info@ecopestcontrolmi.com | 2014 Holland ave 607 Port Huron, MI 48060