

Problems They Cause

Ant infestations can be a nuisance for many homeowners and businesses.

Ants usually come indoors in search of food or nesting habitat and they are most active in summer months.

Black ants do not carry any serious diseases, although they are unhygienic as they may have passed through dirty places.

Pharaoh's ants (*Monomorium pharaonis*), pose a health risk because they can infect foodstuffs with a range of diseases such as food poisoning, dysentery and typhoid. In hospitals and care homes they have been known to invade surgical dressings and may transfer infection from one patient to another.

Commercial Control Methods

- Vergo will identify the species of ants and determine the extent and source of the infestation.
- Depending on species, your Vergo technician will use insecticidal gel bait or toxic baits in the infested areas to control the infestation.
- Toxic baits are slow-acting, so the ants can eat some and take some back to the nest. There is likely to be an initial increase in activity as they find and exploit the new food source. It is fed to the young in the nest, so it gradually controls the whole colony.



Pharaoh Ant



Black Garden Ant

Pest Biology

There are many different species, each with their own habitat and food preferences such as:

Black Garden Ants - 3-5mm long and dark brown/ black in colour. Black Garden Ants nests are normally found in gardens; in the ground, under rocks or flagstones and can often penetrate under the building. They frequently build nests in the foundation layer and from there penetrate into buildings through cracks and crevasses.

Pharaoh Ants - 2mm long and light yellow to reddish brown in colour. They live in colonies with nests in concealed places, often close to a water and food source. Colonies can number 50,000 workers and 100,000 immature ants. They prefer to feed from foods with high protein content, particularly blood and can actively feed from wounds and soiled dressings. These ants can spread pathogens between people due to their liking for blood and have to be specially treated. If they are treated with normal spray insecticide the number of nests will only increase!

What you can do to help

- Ensure good housekeeping in food areas
- Store foodstuffs in sealed containers
- Ensure spillages are cleaned up without delay
- Empty and clean bins regularly



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