

# Frequently asked questions

**Q: Ants place dirt on the liquid or feeder.**

**A:** Some ants may place dirt or other particles on any exposed liquid after they have finished drinking. Only feed your ants as much as they can consume in a few minutes or hours, and then remove the feeder, or place the feeder as far away from the nest entrance and dirt to mitigate.

**Q: Tube stuck and can not be removed.**

**A:** If sugars have crystalized in the base, causing the vial or bottle to become stuck, rinse or soak the base under very hot water to dissolve the sugar and loosen it up.

**Q: Feeder falls over when moving formicarium.**

**A:** Remove feeders from enclosure before relocating, or use care while moving, to prevent it from falling over or sliding around.

**Q: Liquid is leaking out of the feeder.**

**A:** First, ensure the temperature around the feeder is stable. Heat lamps, or lack of air conditioning during warm weather, may cause gasses in the feeder to expand and push out liquid. Honey water mixtures may contain yeast and other microorganisms, which may ferment the sugars and cause gas buildup in the feeder. Finally, ensure the feeder is on a flat, non-absorbent surface. In certain situations, liquid may siphon across the plastic base and drain completely into dirt or other absorbent surfaces.

**Q: The plastic base or glass tube cracked.**

**A:** Please contact us by email at [support@byformica.com](mailto:support@byformica.com) for a replacement.



## NECTAR FEEDER

### Product Overview

byFormica Nectar Feeders for ants consist of a small plastic base, into which a vial or bottle is inserted. Ants stick their heads into the holes in the base to lick liquid which partially wets the plastic.

### Important Considerations

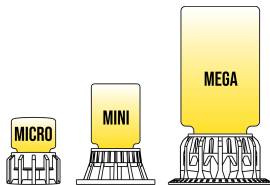
Replace sugary liquids as recommended, even if the visual appearance has not changed. Exposure to air and evaporation causes changes to sugary liquids, making them more acidic, syrupy, and less enticing to ants over time.

Screw the vial into the base until you feel some resistance and vial stops turning.

Extreme temperature changes (such as caused by heat lamps) may cause the gas bubble in the feeder to expand and push out liquid. Prevent leaks by keeping feeder at a constant temperature.

All ant species are different. Test for compatibility to ensure ants can drink from the feeder before unsupervised use.

**IMPORTANT:** To prevent leaks, keep at least 2 or 3 mm distance from dirt, plaster, or other materials which can absorb liquids. It may be necessary to place feeders directly onto a non-absorbent



**Choosing a size:** Use the **MICRO** size to offer a variety of sugary liquids for up to 2 weeks, or the **MINI** size for either water or Sunburst Ant Nectar for up to 4 weeks. The **MEGA** size should be used for water only, except for very large colonies which can drink large amounts quickly.

## Size Specifications & Use Recommendation

Size	Height (max)	Volume (ml)	SRFrq†
MICRO	24 mm (1 in)	1.5 mL	7-10 days
MINI	52 mm (2 in)	1.5, 2.5, or 5 mL	2-4 weeks
MEGA	56-80 mm (2-3 in)	10 or 40 mL	4-6 weeks

† Maximum useful life of **SUNBURST Ant Nectar** when filled to max capacity.

**Use with SUNBURST Ant Nectar** — Because of the slow evaporation rate, byFormica feeders are ideal for offering sugar solutions. For best performance, use SUNBURST Ant Nectar and replace at the frequency listed in the chart (SRFrq). INVERT the feeder several times every 2-3 days when feeding sugary liquids to keep contents mixed and attractive to ants.

**Other Sugar Solutions** — Other sugar solutions may need to be replaced more frequently due to the effects of evaporation or microbial growth (example: honey water), making them less attractive to the ants or causing leaks.

**Use with Water** — **CAUTION:** Some ant species or small colonies may be unable to locate plain water in feeders. If ants cannot find water, they may quickly die of dehydration. Therefore, exercise caution when using byFormica feeders as the only source of plain drinking water.

**Cleaning** — Wash with warm water between uses, and use a brush, paper towel, or similar tool to remove caked debris, only if necessary.

If tube is stuck and can not be easily removed, rinse or soak the base under very hot water to dissolve the sugar and loosen it up.

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