# ANT CARE GUIDE





- Most queen ants are claustral which means she will not need feeding until her first workers arrive (with the exception of some species such as Myrmecia and Polyrhachis who are semi-claustral and will need to feed).
- Once the first worker ants arrive, you can start feeding them.
- Adult ants consume only liquid food. Provide liquid sugar food such as our 'Ant Juice'
- If your ants are in a nest, have available at all times in a small dish or liquid feeder (not too much that they may drown or get stuck).
- If your ants are in a test tube, feed as much as they can consume within an hour, every week or two. Easiest way to feed is to put a few drops onto a new cotton ball and exchange for the one blocking the test tube. Do not fully soak the cotton ball as this will block their oxygen.
- Larvae require protein. Worker ants will bring insects (eg. meal worms or crickets) to the larvae. Ant larvae are hungry. You can provide a source of protein to help them grow quickly.
- Feed one pre killed insect as often as they will take it, usually every few days to a week. Be sure to clean up any left overs after a day so it doesn't go
- You can try other sources of protein such as our 'Ant Mousse'.





- Ants need water at all times for humidity & to drink
- If your ants are in a test tube set up, the water in the tube will be enough for them. Change into a fresh tube if it dries up.
- If your ants are in a nest, top up your nest sponge water regularly.
- When in a nest, provide a second water source in the outworld. This could be a liquid feeder or water filled test tube plugged with cotton.
- If using an open water source such as a dish or lid, ensure you only put a small amount of water in so that your ants don't drown.



- Ants do not have lungs but breathe through holes in their exoskeleton called 'spiracles'
- Spiracles are very efficient at absorbing oxygen so ants don't require lots of air but cannot survive without it.
- Ants need air to survive. Make sure your queen and colony always have fresh air.
- If your ants are in a test tube set up, use a cotton ball to block the end. This allows enough oxygen through for them to survive. Do not use a solid plug.
- When feeding ants in a test tube, do not fully soak their cotton ball in liquid sugar food as this will block air flow.
- If you are moving your ants into a new tube or nest, do not seal off the air supply.

## Helpful Hints...

### Keep them in their test tube until it is FULL of worker ants!

- Ants LOVE to be cramped! They don't like having too much space.
- Moving them into a nest that is too big can cause them to stress & your colony may fail.
- Find a nice warm place for them to live, NOT in direct sunlight.
- Keep them in the dark. When in a test tube either keep them in a cupboard or drawer or cover them with foil or similar. When in a nest they should have a red cover for the nest section.
- Generally between 20-24 degrees and 60% humidity is ideal.
- Clean out your ant nest/outworld of uneaten food & debris regularly to prevent mould.

### Things to Look For!

- New eggs
- Eggs hatching into larvae
- Pupae or cocoons
- New workers (& major workers for some species)



