

# CARPENTER ANT

## IDENTIFICATION

“Big black ants” or carpenter ants can range in size- workers are ¼ inch while a queen is ¾ inch in length. Their color is black and can sometimes be red and black.

## HABITS

Carpenter ants nest in live or dead trees, stumps, and under logs. They will also construct their nests in houses in places such as hollow doors, under siding, in roofs, and under floor coverings. Most commonly, nests are found in porch pillars, window sills, and wood in contact with soil. Nests generally begin in deteriorating wood which has been exposed to moisture. Carpenter ants feed on honeydew from aphids, other insects, and plant secretions. Inside the house, these ants feed off of any meats, pet foods, sweets, sugars, jelly, syrups they can find. Carpenter ants do not eat wood, they excavate it for nesting and lay eggs in the smooth and clean galleries they create. A carpenter ant colony is started by a single fertilized queen. The colony grows rapidly once it is established and have a constant food source. Once a colony reaches 2,000 or more workers, which can take years to accomplish, they start to produce males and young queens. Young queens and males are born with wings and fly off to mate May through July. Carpenter ants rarely cause structural damage to buildings, although they can cause significant damage over a period of years because nests are so long lived.



## CONTROL

Finding the nest(s) is essential to the control of carpenter ants. This is accomplished by inspecting or probing all possible nesting sites. Pyrethrin based aerosols should be injected into these areas. A liquid residual insecticide should also be applied to the foundation, windowsills, and doorways to stop foraging carpenter ants. Interior treatments can also be made to baseboards and other areas where ants have been seen.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ALTERATIONS

In order to keep carpenter ants from houses, several alterations that can be made. Firewood piles should be kept as far away from the house as possible, tree limbs that hang over houses and garages should be cut, gutters should be kept clean with water flowing away from the house. As for indoor alterations, dehumidifiers can be used to keep basements dry and houses should be properly ventilated including soffits and roof vents.

## PROVIDED SERVICES

For professional help, technicians as Speed Exterminating can provide services to eliminate carpenter ant infestations. They will inject proper products into cracks and voids to find the ant colony. Residual barriers are thoroughly applied to the exterior. In the retail store products such as Cessco, Household RTU, and Permacide Concentrate can be purchased for do-it-yourself customers.

**For more information:**  
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216-351-2106     440-327-7777



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