

Ants - Typical First Strikes by Housekeeping/Maintenance

1. The Best Control is cleanliness and to locate and destroy the nest(s). Remove all clutter and debris inside and outside; trim all branches that touch or overhang the building and caulk all visible cracks, crevices and other openings. Keep food and garbage properly stored and make sure people eat only in designated areas. Maintain routine and thorough sanitation.
2. Routinely clean with Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaners (1 oz. per gallon water) and/or borax (½ cup per gallon hot water), empty garbage and vacuum daily. Eliminate clutter and debris. Put down double-sided carpet tape over their trails.
3. Lightly sprinkle talcum powder, baking soda, Splenda®, cinnamon, Tide® soap or freshly ground pepper or calcium chloride (Comet®) outside and lightly dust with talcum or Comet® or calcium chloride dust or baking soda or medicated body powder or Safe Solutions food-grade DE or draw a line with their Chalk De-Fence™ inside along the edges and in all remaining cracks, crevices and sill-boxes. Keep food and garbage properly stored away from ants. Improve drainage. Trim all branches that touch or overhang the building. Put bands of cedar oil, Tanglefoot or petroleum jelly or fluoride toothpaste or Chalk De-Fence™ or duct tape (sticky-side up) around the perimeter of infested trees. Spray Not Nice to Bugs®.
4. Mix 50% baking soda and 50% powdered sugar and place the bait mix or instant grits or use 2 packets of Equal® wherever you see ants. **The only way to eliminate ants permanently is to destroy the queen(s).**
5. Spray ant trails with diluted Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner with Peppermint, Lemon Joy® or vinegar or perfume, or sprinkle talc, food-grade DE, freshly ground pepper, cedar oil, calcium chloride (Comet®), baking soda or damp coffee grounds or draw a line of chalk or place duct tape (sticky-side up) where you do not want them to cross. Install and maintain dehumidifiers. Eliminate moisture problems and improve ventilation. Flood nests with diluted enzyme cleaner or Splenda®. Locate the place of entry, squeeze the juice of a lemon into it and leave the peel.
6. Spray all visible ants with Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner (1 oz. per qt. water) and/or diluted dish soap (2 oz. - 4 oz. per qt. water) or vacuum them up. Remove all debris.
7. Mop the floors with ½ - 1 cup of borax or baking soda per gallon of hot water. **Keep crawling children off the borax cleaned floor!**
8. Flood or drench all outside nests with 3 gallons warm water and 4 - 5 oz. Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner with Peppermint and/or ¾ cup food-grade DE or carbon dioxide or diluted orange juice or steam. Be sure landscape mulch is 2" or less. Dig them up several times. Dust with Splenda®.
9. Ants in voids or hollow trees: Dust with talcum powder and then fill the cavity with aerosol foam insulation. Put bands of Tanglefoot or Vaseline or fluoride toothpaste or duct tape (sticky-side up) around the perimeter of infested trees and/or rooms. Eliminate moisture problems.
10. **Fire Ant Repellent:** Sprinkle talc or food-grade DE on shoes, socks, cuffs and legs to protect yourself.
11. **Ant baits** can be made by first finding a preferred food source, e.g., apple sauce, creamy Jif peanut butter, Crisco shortening, sugar water, moist cat food, honey, light Karo Syrup, mint jelly, and then lightly mixing in a small amount of borax (about 1% - 2%); or, better yet, 3% - 5% food-grade DE or aspartame (Equal® or Nutrasweet®). Most ants living in a house or other structure are typically feeding on people food and only occasionally on honeydew. Food preferences are often seasonal. **Use a variety of baits.** If the ants are dying near the bait, it is too strong! You may wish to add a little diluted Tagmet or baking soda or aspartame to your baits. If you still have ants in 2 weeks, your bait is too weak. Ant baits should be used when the temperature is above 70° F. and less than 90° F. and kept out of the rain. Spray dry dog food with diluted 1% borax or sodium borate; let dry and grind to powder and then use as a bait. The sodium borate bait will also kill rats and mice. If you smoke, wear clean gloves before baiting. **Keep all borax or borate baits away from children, pets and wildlife. Bait until they quit taking the bait.**
12. **When ants invade a classroom or food operation area, the best control treatment is a mixture of enzyme cleaner or a detergent and water in a spray bottle. Each classroom and food preparation area should be equipped with a spray bottle so teachers and staff can safely and quickly control ant problems. Mix at a rate of 1 oz. per quart water.**
13. **If you are still seeing ants, read the entire chapter - there are many other controls available.**

Alternative Controls

1. Mix 10% salt and some white pepper or Tabasco sauce in water and spray to repel ants.
2. Blend 1 clove of garlic, 1 onion, 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper and 1 quart water. Steep mixture for 1 hour, strain, add 1 tablespoon of liquid soap and spray it for ant control.
3. Wash kitchen surfaces with vinegar or baking soda solution. Lightly sprinkle dried peppermint, cayenne, baking soda, calcium chloride, bone meal, chili powder, talcum powder, Tide® soap food-grade DE and/or powdered charcoal in and around suspected points of entry. Dilute geraniol in olive oil and use as repellent spray. Sprinkle table salt in order to dry them out.
4. Pour a line of any of the following where ants are entering the building: baking soda, calcium chloride, Bon Ami® or Comet®, cinnamon, talcum or chili powder, bone meal, garlic powder, medicated body powder, cream of tartar, red chili pepper, salt, Tide® soap, dried mint or sage, food-grade DE, cucumber peelings, or simply draw a line of chalk.
5. Mix of 10½ oz. water, 3 oz. Tabasco sauce, ½ oz. Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner with Peppermint. Spray where ants enter the home or building.
6. Spray them with Fantastic® or WD40®. Create a barrier with Vaseline® or STP® oil treatment or duct tape (sticky-side up) or double-sided carpet tape.
7. Find the entrance and block it with a patch of petroleum jelly, toothpaste, white glue or tape. Bait with 1/3 powdered sugar, 1/3 baking soda and 1/3 powdered vitamin C.
8. Lightly dust with Safe Solutions, Inc. food grade diatomaceous earth. This can also be mixed at a rate of 4 tablespoons per gallon of water to make a residual spray or to drench a mound.
9. Seal tree voids or other voids with aerosol foam insulation and make some “instant fossils”.

Alternative Baits (Remember, food needs can and do vary hourly. Baiting works best when sanitation measures have eliminated alternative food sources.)

*Safe Solutions products may be purchased online at:
<http://www.safesolutionsinc.com>
or by telephone at:
1-888-443-8738.

