

Carpenter Ants

Scientific Name: *Camponotus pennsylvanicus*



Identification Tips:

Color	Usually black, red, brown, or a combination of red and black
Legs	6
Size	Workers range from 1/8" to 1/2"
Identifying Characteristics	3-segmented body; one node; elbowed antennae; constricted waist; reproductives have forewings larger than hindwings

Characteristics of this insect:

- Main colony may be located outside the structure with a number of satellite colonies located within the structure
- Nests are usually established in soft, moist (not too wet), decayed wood, or in an existing wall voids that may be completely dry
- Does not consume wood. Workers excavate irregular, smooth and clean galleries usually along the grain of wood, but sometimes across the grain in softer portions of wood. Homeowner may see piles of sawdust and fragments of insects expelled from galleries
- Diet consists of both plant and animal origin such plant juices, fresh fruits, insects, meats, syrup, honey, jelly, sugar, grease, fat, and honey dew (aphid excrement)



Why are they in my structure?

Although the carpenter ant prefers moist, decaying wood, they will eventually forage for more sound wood. The main colony is usually located outside, but foraging results in satellite colonies being established inside your dwelling. They will enter the structure via electrical/plumbing lines, eaves, door and window framing, overhanging tree branches, and wood piles adjacent to house to name a few.



Is this insect harmful to me?

Although they do not consume wood, they can cause structural damage to your property by hollowing out galleries in the structural timbers. This in turn can reduce the integrity of the wood. Also, although this insect does not "bite" per se, they can cause a forcible pinch with their strong mandibles. It is best to control and eliminate this insect once found in your living space.

Can I treat the problem myself?

Being that this insect is wood infesting, it has been our experience that most homeowners are unsuccessful at eliminating this problem. Also, homeowners often utilize products that are ineffective or apply them not in accordance with labeling and state laws. Please remember that products may be harmful to you and your family if they are misused or misapplied.

What can Apex do for me?

As mentioned, locating a carpenter ant nest in a void somewhere can be extremely difficult. Time must be spent interviewing the homeowner as to where the ants have been seen, how many, if they were winged or

not, moisture issues associated with the home, and presence of sawdust to name a few. That being said, Apex can provide you with a one-time application or a preventative maintenance plan.

One-Time Treatment: An interview with the homeowner is conducted along with a detailed inspection of both the inside and outside of the structure. Time is spent trying to locate a satellite colony if one exists and then a targeted application of product is made to rid your home of these unwanted guests. A 90-day guarantee is provided with free service calls if needed.

Pest Prevention Plan: Quarterly inspections and treatments are performed to keep your home pest free year around. Free service calls are provided whenever a pest outbreak occurs. Being that a variety of general insect problems are covered, this is a cost effective way to maintain the integrity of your home and is the recommended treatment of Apex.

Is the treatment safe for my children and pets?



Since 1969, Apex has always operated with one goal in mind: *“The safety of people, pets, places, and the environment is our first concern.”* Therefore, we will utilize crack and crevice and spot applications, baits, monitors, habitat modification recommendations, and natural products as a method of treatment when possible. When conventional treatments are required, our licensed technicians are trained to apply the products so as to not pose a problem to people or their pets. All conventional products are EPA registered and our technician will advise you of any necessary precautions.

What should I do now?

Call our office at 1-800-MUG-A-BUG (1-800-684-2284) to discuss your problem with a knowledgeable customer service representative. Otherwise, sign up for a free online quote today!

Carpenter ant and carpenter ant frass images courtesy of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (<http://lancaster.unl.edu/>)

<http://www.apexpestcontrol.net/>

1-800-MUG-A-BUG

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