

Odorous House Ant

Scientific Name: *Tapinoma sessile*



Identification Tips:

Color	Dark brown to black
Legs	6
Size	Small workers ranging from 1/16" to 1/8"
Identifying Characteristics	3-segmented body; one node; 12 segmented antennae not terminated with a club; bitter odor when crushed, which is similar to the pungent odor of decaying coconut husk

Characteristics of this insect:

- Considered a scavenger that will eat most household foods, but prefers those that contain sugar
- Outside they construct shallow nests in soil underneath objects such as stones, patio blocks, and debris. Inside, they prefer areas with moisture such as around hot water pipes, heaters, or insulation to name a few
- Colonies range in size from 100 – 100,000 with multiple queens
- Workers actively forage along trails when temperatures are cool, even down to 50 degrees Fahrenheit

Why are they in my structure?

This insect may have invaded your home from a nearby outside nesting site, to colonize around a heated, moisture source inside, or due to its trailing nature, located sweets in kitchen or nearby areas and ventured inside.



Is this insect harmful to me?

Although this ant is primarily a nuisance insect, they could potentially carry germs on their bodies from visiting unsanitary locations and contaminate food and/or food preparation and storage areas. It is always best to control the pest and keep away from your living space.

Can I treat the problem myself?

Effective control by the homeowner is unlikely as it is one of the more difficult ants to control inside a dwelling. 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 and should be handled by a professional.

What can Apex do for me?

An Apex representative will spend time interviewing the homeowner as to where the ants have been seen, how many, conditions within the home that may be causing the problems both inside and around the structure, and spend time following the foraging workers back from the food source to locate possible nesting sites 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 locating foraging ant trails 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?



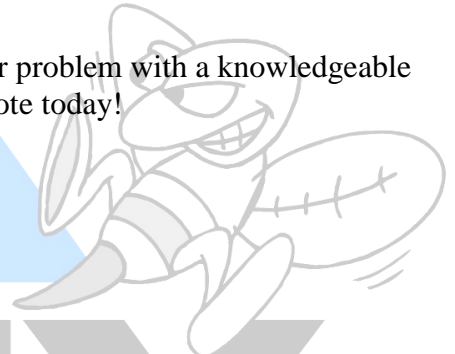
Since 1969, Apex has always operated with one goal in mind: *“The safety of people, pets, places, and the environment is our first concern.”* Therefore, we will utilize crack and crevice and spot applications, baits, monitors, habitat modification recommendations, and natural products as a method of 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!

Odorous house ant image courtesy of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (<http://lancaster.unl.edu/>)

<http://www.apexpestcontrol.net/> **1-800-MUG-A-BUG**



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