

Pharaoh Ant

Scientific Name: *Monomorium Pharaonis*



Identification Tips:

Color	Yellowish to orange/reddish, with shiny dark abdomen
Legs	6
Size	Workers are about 1/16 inch long
Identifying Characteristics	3-segmented body; two nodes; 12 segmented antennae with 3-segmented club; males 1/16 inch long, black in appearance, possess wings, and have a stinger (although seldom used)

Characteristics of this insect:

- Form trails and are attracted to grease, meats, insects, and sweets. Prefer warm areas (80 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Active year round in houses and portions of larger buildings such as hospitals, food handling establishments, office buildings, and apartments to name a few. Can be found in wall voids, behind baseboards, stack of papers, bed linens, and bandage packs
- Colonies are large, have multiple queens, and increase by “budding” – one portion of colony goes with each queen
- Believe it or not, these ants have turned up in IV tubes, medicine droppers, and bandage stacks

Why are they in my structure?

They can enter the structure via cracks in foundations, unsealed gaps around windows/door/utility lines, or under flashing. They commonly utilize telephone, electrical or cable wiring to move between floors. In colder climates, they cannot survive outside. In hospital situations, they are attracted to wounds or burn patients and the supplies necessary for treatment.



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. In the hospital setting, this insect has been known to carry pathogenic bacteria.

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. The typical over-the-counter products make the situation worse by causing the colony to bud into several colonies. 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!

Pharaoh 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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