

Ants Information

PCD42 - April 2011



Introduction

Ants can be a problem in Spring and Summer and usually live outside, but will invade buildings in search of food. Foraging worker ants are attracted to sweet food and will communicate to other workers which can lead to large numbers invading premises. They take back the food to the queen and larvae in the nest.

Ant Problems

Garden and flying ants are common in the UK, are dark brown in colour and are 3-5 mm in length. The queens are bigger and lighter in colour. They are social insects living in communal nest under stones, walls or other dry places and are hard to find, therefore treatment can be prolonged and expensive. It is better for occupiers to deal with the problem themselves by using an approved insecticide. Nests can be found by looking for ant trails, flying ants leaving the nest or small piles of earth at the nest entrances/exits. Flying ants can form swarms in summer.

Prevention and Control

- Seal possible entry points e.g. holes in mortar, low-level air-bricks.
- Turn over soil near external house walls to discourage nesting
- Clean up any food spillages quickly and store food in sealed containers.
- For external nests that can be seen, pour boiling water on the nest for short-term control and then apply a residual insecticidal powder into any holes. Where nests are difficult to find/access place a continuous band of spray/powder insecticide around external wall/floor junctions and other possible entry points. Do this on a rainy day. Use an insecticidal aerosol for flying ants.
- For internal nests use a water-based residual insecticide to internal wall/floor junctions and soft furnishings e.g. carpets and wash work surfaces following treatment. This insecticide dries quickly, is invisible and is active for weeks.
- Pharaoh Ants are very small, are a potential risk to human health and are difficult to eradicate and professional treatment is advised.

When using insecticides: always store away from children and pets, read the label and follow manufacturers instructions, ensure good ventilation, avoid inhaling, wash hands after use and do not use near food or food preparation areas.

Please note that Kirklees council does not provide a service for the control of cluster flies, but can provide further information on request.

Further Information Kirklees Environmental Protection
Tel: 01484 226891 Email: pest.control@kirklees.gov.uk