



ANT SERVICE GUIDELINES

Ants are social insects that colonize, forage and nest. Their complex nature means each species has differing social and environmental habits, making it difficult to outline a universal protocol. However, these best practices can help eliminate some of the most problematic ant species.



INSPECTION

Treatment is based entirely on inspection results. Consider these tips:

- ▶ **Focus on potential ant trailing and nesting sites**, often on the exterior of structures
- ▶ **Search for ant trails and nesting sites early in the day or at dusk/night**, when ants are typically foraging, to help increase service success
- ▶ **Look in the right harborage areas**, such as in soil under objects and debris (bricks, stones or firewood), as well as areas with standing water
- ▶ **Inspect trees and shrubs for insects that are honeydew producers**, as many ants tend them and use them as food sources
- ▶ **Inspect edges along foundations, sidewalks, driveways, curbs and adjacent landscape beds** and note all areas where ants are found
- ▶ **Conduct interior structural inspections as needed** near entry points and/or indoor nesting areas like wall voids, subfloors and attics
- ▶ **Document all conducive conditions and communicate findings to the customer** verbally, in writing and in photographs and videos, if permitted
- ▶ **Interview structure owner or tenant** to ask where they have seen ant activity indoors and outdoors



EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ **Inspection:** Long screwdriver/garden trowel, flashlight, ladder and documentation device
- ▶ **Application:** Compressed air sprayer (hand-held, pump/battery-powered backpack) or power sprayer, rotary spreader and bulb or bellows duster

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PRODUCT APPLICATIONS

All treatment applications **must** be guided by inspection findings. Always wear the recommended personal protective equipment and follow non-target safety measures (labeled environmental safety and use restrictions).

Interior Treatments

- ▶ Apply gel baits near interior foraging ant trails or nests as crack-and-crevice treatments (as a line approximately 1/8 in. wide by 2-3 in. long, or as gel spots approximately 0.1-1.0 g)
- ▶ Dry flowable baits can be applied to treat cracks, crevices and wall voids where ants are foraging or harboring
- ▶ If an interior liquid sprayable residual application is necessary, consider using a non-repellent, non-neonicotinoid product
 - Apply using a coarse, low-pressure fan spray
 - Target active ant trails, nests and other infested areas or areas suspected to be infested
 - Make spot and crack-and-crevice applications to interior areas like attics, wall voids, behind cabinets, under counters and appliances, and along baseboards
- ▶ Minimize product application volumes and risk for non-target exposure

Exterior Treatments

- ▶ Spray a coarse fan of residual insecticide around the structure's foundation, creating a complete barrier with no breaks in the treatment zone
 - Make applications 2 ft. up (or to where veneer/siding meets foundation slab), or where ants are trailing, and at least 3 ft. out from structure, except where impervious hardscapes are present (note pyrethroid rules and regulations)
- ▶ Make spot or crack-and-crevice treatments around vents, utility penetrations, window frames, door frames, eaves and overhangs that are higher than 2 ft.
- ▶ Treat edges of sidewalks, patios, flower beds and other areas where ants generally forage
- ▶ Spray around other harborage areas on the property (wood, rock, brick, compost piles, etc.), and if ants are present on trees, treat tree trunks (be aware of edible plants and fruit-bearing trees)
 - Harborage areas further from the structure can be treated with a granular bait applied with a hand-held rotary spreader or the product container, if applicable
- ▶ Gel baits may also be used in crack-and-crevice applications on the structure or in/on trees where ants are found
 - Don't apply repellent/deterrent residual sprays on top of granular baits or gel bait applications
- ▶ Dry flowable baits can be applied to treat slab/foundation penetrations and structural entry points/harborage areas if not previously treated with a sprayable residual finished solution



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR ANT TREATMENTS

Indoor or Outdoor Use	Season	Product	Active Ingredient	Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) Codes	Treatment Type	Recommended Application Rate
Outdoor	Winter/Spring	Tandem® insecticide	<i>Thiamethoxam</i> (systemic, neonicotinoid) and <i>lambda-cyhalothrin</i> (contact, pyrethroid)	Group 3A, 4A	Residual sprayable	Mix 0.55 fl. oz. with 2-2.5 gal. of water and apply to 1,000 sq. ft.
Outdoor	Summer/Fall	Demand® CS insecticide	<i>Lambda-cyhalothrin</i> with iCAP technology™	Group 3A	Residual sprayable	Mix 0.8 fl. oz. with 2-2.5 gal. of water and apply to 1,000 sq. ft.
Outdoor	Year round	Advion® Insect granular bait	<i>Indoxacarb</i>	Group 22	Spot (indoor/outdoor) or broadcast banded (outdoor) treatments	Apply 6 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft.
Indoor/Outdoor	Year round	Advion Ant gel bait*	<i>Indoxacarb</i>	Group 22	Spot treatments	Apply a line approx. 1/8 in. by 2-3 in. in length or spots of gel approx. 0.1-1.0 g in diameter
Indoor/Outdoor	Year round	Optigard® Ant gel bait*	<i>Thiamethoxam</i>	Group 4A	Spot treatments	Apply a line approx. 1/8 in. by 2-3 in. in length or spots of gel approx. 0.1-1.0 g in diameter
Indoor/Outdoor	Year round	Advion MicroFlow insect bait	<i>Indoxacarb</i>	Group 22	Indoor crack-and-crevice, spot or void treatments, as well as direct nest or trail treatments outdoors	Apply 0.2-1.8 oz. per 100 sq. ft.
Indoor	Year round	Advion WDG insecticide	<i>Indoxacarb</i>	Group 22	Sprayable	Mix 0.3 oz. with 2-2.5 gal. of water and apply to 1,000 sq. ft.

* When applying sprayable products per gal. of finished solution, add 0.5 gal. of water, add the recommended dilution rate, agitate vigorously, and then add 0.5 gal. of water and agitate vigorously again to ensure a homogenous finished solution.

Always consult the product label for complete use and application information.

If large-colony ants are suspected on the exterior of a structure, utilize higher volumes of finished solution (4 gal. per 1,000 sq. ft.) in early spring. The higher volume will penetrate through mulch/pine straw down into the upper layer of soil where ants are harboring. This early spring treatment can help reduce the potential for high-density populations later in the summer.

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