



Ants (Formicidae) Treatment Expectations

What to expect and **Why**, after Horizon provides service for ants.

All ants are highly social insects that constantly interact with each other to quickly reproduce into multiple colonies over time. Since we have the professional knowledge of their social behavior, we choose to use advanced control methods and materials to tactfully use their biological behavior against them. All ant colonies have a hierarchy within the colony:

- The ant Queen(s) will govern, command, reproduce more ants, and delegate tasks to the ants in the colony.
- The ant King(s) will assist the Queen(s) in reproducing the ant population in the colony.
- The ant Workers are responsible for finding food, bringing the food back to the colony, defending the colony, grooming each other, and taking care of the brood.
- The larvae (ants go through complete metamorphosis and the larvae is the stage between egg and adult) act as the stomach of the colony. Ants can drink liquids but cannot eat solid food, because the passage from their mouth to abdomen is too narrow. The larvae's job is to eat the solids and turn them into a liquid to feed the colony.
- Reproductive ants, known as, "Swarms," are the future Ant Kings and Queens of new perennial sister colonies.
 - Most mature ant colonies swarm once per year, and the purpose of the swarming ants is to continue the genetic code of the colony. They fly into the air (typically outside but can occur inside as well) find a mate, land, find an area conducive to survival, typically outdoors, and then attempt to start a new colony. This is very similar to social human behavior, as we raise our children to become adults, move on and start their own families.

The social behavior of the ant workers is the key to the service methods we provide in conjunction with the specialized materials which are used. The worker ants are focused and dedicated to the commands of the ant Queen(s) and cannot deviate from her directives. The ants communicate with each other through emission of chemical communication trails called pheromones.

We utilize a combination of health conscious pesticides that are classified as "non-repellants." They are advanced materials which are an undetected threat to the ants. Most retail pesticides are classified as repellants in nature and will often deter ants temporarily. Ants will detect repellent materials, communicate with each other and warn themselves to retreat. They then will continue to build their colonies elsewhere, thus returning once the repellent material dissipates, but now only in larger quantity.

We institute service programs that focus in on utilizing non-repellant pesticide applications in strategic areas we know worker ants encounter. Through this process they will actually introduce the products into the colonies for us. The materials are scientifically designed to work in a gradual manner so the ants can be active and spread them throughout the colony. We ask that you give the treatment 2 to 3 weeks to work. The material applications can also be effective for up to 4 to 6 weeks. Having a relatively small percentage of the colony, as little as 10%, directly exposed to the material will produce control of the entire population. It is not uncommon to see a slight increase in ant activity within the first 4-9 days as the active ingredient does change the behavior of the insect. As the workers reach mortality, the colony



begins to collapse; not enough food is coming into the nest due to the worker decline and ants become disoriented from the gradual material exposure.

Depending on the situation, the use of repellent products may be relevant and serve a purpose. At times these products can be used in conjunction with the non-repellent treatments to reduce the visual activity levels in certain areas. Examples may include the use of repellents along crevices in kitchen counters, bathrooms and the interior perimeter base of rooms. It is important to note that we do not want to alter the behavior of ants completely and drive them into new areas. The goal is simply to reduce visual traffic to the area most sensitive to the client, and encourage them to stay active in the areas we apply the non-repellent materials.

Special Notes:

- In some cases, regarding particular ant species, like Odorous House Ants and Pharaoh Ants, results may take longer as these colonies can have multiple queens producing eggs and therefore can reproduce at a faster pace. When dealing with these particular species, please give the products 4-6 weeks to fully work.
- For the best opportunity of success, Horizon asks that you do not apply any products on your own and to have a level of patience to allow the products to work.
- We also ask that you do not clean areas that were treated as this could hinder the time of control.
- The materials we use are health conscious and specifically designed to affect the body mass of the target pests, which is less than an ounce in weight.
- We understand that it can be concerning to see an occasional ant several days after the treatment. We are looking to always use pro-active and reactive materials which will instate long term control. In doing so, it is not advised to repeat residual applications too soon, as this will not expedite control.
 - The act of reapplying too soon will only cause a build-up of layered applications, and increases the pesticide footprint on the property.
- If you are still seeing activity after 3 weeks, please call us and we will assist you through consultation and service, as there are times where additional service is required.

Horizon has been in business for 50 years, proudly prioritizing value, logic and the best health practices in our approach for the benefit of our clients. We will take care of the issue, and our work is guaranteed.

Reminder: A single foraging ant does not constitute an issue. If you are finding multiple ants after the 3 weeks, please give a call.

In short, the treatment and control of ants is a process. It takes time for these pests to reach your property, and it will require some time to reach control in duration. The colony sizes can range from thousands into the millions in the natural environment around our homes and properties, as you now know. Together we will reach our goals, piece of mind and the promotion to protect health and property.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, thank you for choosing Horizon, and thank you for your understanding. If the issue persists beyond the 3-weeks period, please call the office at 201-447-2530 to schedule a service call. Your original service date was _____.

The Horizon Team.