

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Ants In Your Home Is No Picnic

(NAPSA)—Ants are social insects that work together for a common good, but their food-seeking missions may not always be in your best interest—especially if such efforts take them into your home.

Of the 700 species of ants found in the U.S., 20 find refuge in homes, schools and businesses and about two dozen are considered pests. Recognizing these pests for what they are can help you protect your home and family.

- Carpenter ants are an aggressive species of ants found nationwide. These wood-destroying insects hollow out wood for nesting, causing costly property damage.

- Fire ants, a native of Argentina, are an invasive, predatory species that instantly attacks any animal or human unfortunate enough to stumble on their mound-type nest.

- Odorous house ants commonly nest in basements, crawlspaces and adjacent structures. The ant gives off a pungent odor when crushed, which is how it got its name.

- The pavement ant, which nests under pavements, is found on both the East and West Coasts.

Whatever their type, ants are the No. 1 pest problem that drives homeowners to look for professional advice. The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) offers these tips for keeping ants out of your home:

- Dispose of trash on a regular basis to prevent ants from becoming a problem indoors.

- Thoroughly clean up grease and spills.

- Store sugar, syrup, honey and sweets in closed containers and wipe the outside of the containers to eliminate sticky residue. Also,



At least a dozen species of ants are considered pests and may pose a threat to your family and your home.

rinse out empty soft drink containers and store them away from the house.

- Seal cracks and crevices around foundations that allow entry from the outside as well as cracks and crevices inside the home.

- Inspect potted plants for signs of ant nesting and remove plants if infested.

- Reduce moisture in and around structures that may be attractive to ants by repairing leaking hose bibs and other supply lines, downspouts, drain lines and air-conditioner condensate lines.

Following these simple tips may help you avoid an ant problem later on. If you suspect you already have an infestation, call a licensed professional to inspect and treat the problem.

To learn more, you can visit www.pestworld.org.