

# Ants

## Information leaflet

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EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## **WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?**

The black or garden ant is the commonest British ant to enter houses and it is found in almost all parts of the country. The worker is very dark brown, almost black, and about 5mm long. The queen, which is rarely seen except for certain months in the summer, is about 15mm long and mid-brown in colour.

## **WHERE DO THEY LIVE?**

The queen makes the nest in the soil, in grassed areas beneath paving and patios and sometimes in hollow trees. The nests are usually outside buildings although sometimes they may be found in the walls or foundations of a house, as the sand used in foundations and as a base for paving slabs is an attractive nesting material.

## **WHAT DO THEY EAT?**

Ants are omnivorous, meaning that animals and vegetables are in their diet and need water to survive. Worker ants will frequently enter dwellings foraging for food, particularly sweet substances.

## **DISEASE TRANSMISSION**

While not a risk to human health, they can be present in sufficient numbers to cause a nuisance.

## **CONTROL MEASURES**

Treating an ant infestation is best carried out by the occupier of the premises.

Good hygiene management is essential to deny any sources of food.

Insecticidal dusts are an effective treatment against garden ants; these can be purchased from hardware shops, do-it-yourself shops and garden centres. Insecticidal aerosols can be used for spraying into cracks and crevices and around access points.

Bait Formulations: these products rely upon worker ants taking the bait back to the nest and sharing it with other ants.

## HOW WE CAN HELP

East Cambridgeshire District Council **does not** offer treatment for Ants.

**For further advice, please contact Environmental Services on 01353 665555.**

**WHEN USING INSECTICIDES ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL.**