

Pharaoh ant (*Monomorium pharaonis*)

Description

Pharaoh ants are smaller than brown garden ants and are light yellow with a dark coloured abdomen. Approx 2mm in length.



Where and how do they live?

Pharaoh ants are usually found indoors. They need warm temperatures to breed and like to live in warm, centrally heated buildings.

Why are they a problem?

Pharaoh's ants carry germs from dirty places to clean food which makes them a public health pest. In some circumstances they can transmit food poisoning illnesses.

A new colony of Pharaoh ants can be created very quickly which is why it is important to deal with them as quickly as possible.

What can I do to prevent pharaoh ants in my home?

The smallest scraps of food or liquid are attractive to pests looking for food. To avoid attracting ants into your home:

- Wash kitchen surfaces before and after preparing food and clean up any left-over mess
- Sweep and mop all food and liquids from the floor regularly
- Keep food stored in air tight containers
- Empty bins regularly

How can I get rid of pharaoh ants?

An infestation of Pharaoh ants will need professional treatment. A common method is to use a food bait insecticide which can kill the queen ant and destroy the colony.

How we can help

Please resist the temptation to try and treat these ants yourself with insecticide sprays. Treatment for this insect is normally undertaken on a block control basis as treatment for individual flats or rooms will be not be effective. Please let the council have access to your property so that the infestation can be professional dealt with.

Contact

If you are a council tenant and you are having a problem with Pharaoh ants in the first instance contact your area housing office.

To report an infestation or request a pest control officer to visit your property, call 0800 952 4444.

Home owner?

If you are a private tenant or owner occupier you should contact your landlord. Pest Control will make a charge for block treatments of this insect. Any programme of treatments will need to be authorised by the owner or the landlord.