Ants

If you know what to do, you can avoid most pest problems in your home. Follow these steps:

1. Identify and monitor the pest.
2. Sanitize and keep your home clean.
3. Exclude pests by sealing entry points.
4. Control pests by trying non-chemical methods first, then using pesticides if necessary.

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New Other pests in the ISEC Home Pest Management series:
- Carpenter Ants
- Spiders
- Small Mammals
- Small Flies
- Silverfish
- Scorpions
- Pantry Pests
- Fleas
- Cockroaches

Other pests in the ISEC Home Pest Management series:
- In your home, you can avoid most pest problems.
- If you know what to do,

F Manage your pests.
- Exclude pests by sealing
- your home.
- Sanitize and keep
- the pest
- Identity and monitor

Follow these steps:
- using pesticides if
- necessary.
There are a few different types of ants. Here are some common household ants:

• Pharaoh ant
  - 1/16 inch
• Odorous house ant
  - 1/8 inch
• Crazy ant
  - 1/16 inch

If ants are a problem in your home...

Identify:

• Before you buy or use any pesticide, the product is labeled for the site and read the label carefully. Also, check if it is registered for use.
• Properly identify the pest. Ants have pinched or narrow waists and elbowed antennae. Here are some common household ants.

Sanitize:

• Sweep and vacuum regularly.

Exclude:

• Do not wipe away ant trails. Place a bait station in the middle of the ant trail so the ants will find it.
• Do not spray insecticides near baits. Insecticides can contaminate the bait.
• Give baits time to work. They may take several days or longer.
• Store food and pet food in glass or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids. Clean kitchen counters, tables and countertops often.
• Do not leave food or dirty dishes in the sink overnight. Rinse recyclable items before storing them and clean the recyling containers.
• Clean up spilled food and drink immediately.
• Outdoors, keep garbage in plastic bags and take it out several times a week. Keep garbage in plastic bags and take it out several times a week.
• Do not wipe away ant trails.

Exclude:

• Do not store food and pet food in glass or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.

Control:

• Before you buy or use any pesticide, the product is labeled for the site and read the label carefully. Also, check if it is registered for use.
• Properly identify the pest. Ants have pinched or narrow waists and elbowed antennae. Here are some common household ants.

If ants remain a problem, hire a professional pest control service.

Exclude:

• Do not store food and pet food in glass or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.
• Use caulk or steel wool to seal outside doors, replace the weatherstripping and/or door threshold.
• If you can see daylight around outside doors, replace the weatherstripping around the outside of the doors and around the outside of any garages.
• If you can determine where the nests are, you can treat directly with an insecticide. Also apply pesticide around the area to prevent ants from entering.

Sanitize:

• Do not store food and pet food in glass or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.
• Use baits to control ants inside the house. Baits come in childproof, plastic stations. They are safe and easy to use.
• Worker ants carry the bait back to the nest where other ants eat it. Regularly apply baits for different kinds of ants. Be sure to buy baits that are designed to control the particular ant pests you have.
• Store food and pet food in glass or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.
• Clean kitchen counters, tables and countertops often.
• Do not leave food or dirty dishes in the sink overnight. Rinse recyclable items before storing them and clean the recycling containers.
• Clean up spilled food and drink immediately.
• Outdoors, keep garbage in plastic bags and take it out several times a week.

If ants...