

# Ants

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The common varieties of ants generally live outdoors in grass, walls or under paving, but travel widely in search of food. They are not dangerous, though they often become a nuisance.

Like all insects they may spread small numbers of germs around food areas.

Under favourable conditions an ant nest may persist for several years.

## Control of ants

The first thing to do is to find the nest by following the ants as they leave the house. They will tend to follow set trails back to the nest.

Nests are usually outside the building in sandy soil, especially under paving or walls, within a few metres of the house.

### **Exposed nest**

If the nest can be exposed it can most easily be destroyed by pouring a large quantity of boiling water into it.

### **Hidden nest**

If the nest is under paving or a wall then an insecticide for ants can be sprinkled over the nest area and around the entrance hole. Or an ant bait station can be placed in the path of the ants which has sweet but toxic bait which will attract the ants and be taken back to the nest and shared with the other ants. After several days use you should notice a reduction in numbers but it may take a couple of weeks to be fully effective.

### **Pest control service**

If you are unable to deal with an ant problem you can use the council's pest control service or a private pest control company to destroy the ants.