

## Carpenter Ants

There are several species of carpenter ants apt to invade your home or business. Carpenter ants are wood-destroying insects that can do a significant amount of damage if left untreated.



**Feeding:** Indoors, carpenter ants feed on protein and sweets such as meat, sugar, honey. Outdoors, they feed on insects. Unlike the termite, carpenter ants *do not eat wood*. They remove wood as they tunnel.

**Nesting:** Carpenter ants establish parent colonies and satellite nests. Nesting takes place in moist or decayed wood inside as well as outside.

Nests can be found wherever moisture is present such as, around dishwashers, under sinks, behind bathroom tiles; around tubs. Voids in walls and floors and foam insulation may also provide nesting grounds for the carpenter ant. Satellite nests, however, do not require moisture so they can be found in dry areas.

**Evidence:** Winged carpenter ants may swarm during the Spring months and sometimes in Fall which is indicative of a nearby nest. If you are seeing carpenter ants in your home or business during the winter months it may be an indication that there is a nest or nests present inside the building.

**Control:** An inspection of your property to determine the location of the nests is necessary for effective control. We have control options that we will discuss with you after the inspection is complete.

**Prevention:** Clearing away decaying or infested wood from around buildings. Store firewood outside and away from the building. Replace moist, decayed, or infested wood inside. Control humidity in the building if possible. Do not feed them - keep food sealed in containers and maintain sanitary conditions. Remove crumbs and food debris from floors, counters, stoves and other areas in your home.