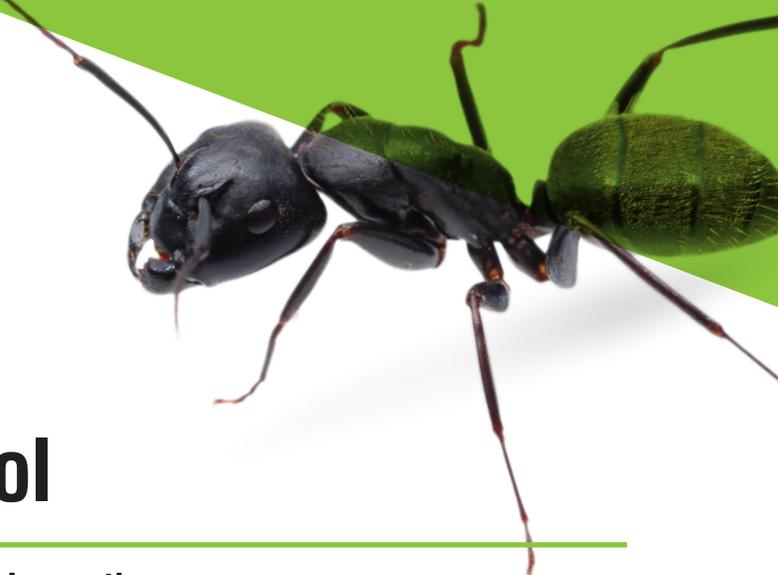




## PEST IDENTIFICATION & TREATMENT

### ANT SPECIES

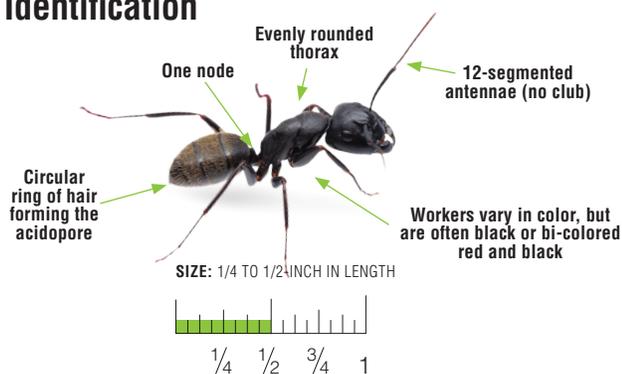
# Carpenter Ant Protocol



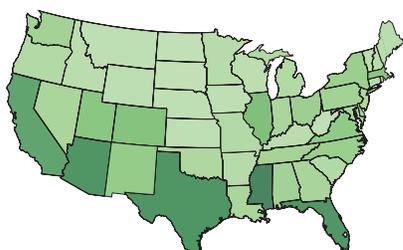
## Understanding Carpenter Ants

- Carpenter ants are comprised of several pest species across the United States, including black carpenter ants, western carpenter ants and Florida carpenter ants.
  - Black carpenter ant colonies typically contain several thousand ants, although large populations can contain up to 20,000 ants.
  - Western carpenter ant colonies usually contain 10,000-20,000 ants but may contain as many as 100,000 ants in mature, undisturbed colonies.
  - Florida carpenter ant (thorax and head are red and the abdomen is black with long golden hairs) colonies typically contain several thousand ants, although large populations can contain up to 8,000 ants.
- While there are some differences in preferred nesting sites between species, most carpenter ants prefer moist, decayed or rotting wood, and will expand into sound wood as colony size increases.

## Identification



## Range



Not Reported Low Abundance Abundant

Data Sources: iNaturalist & iDigiBio

## Inspection

- Carpenter ants prefer voids that are close to moisture and food, and easily accessible to them. They also prefer areas that are safe from predators like birds and lizards, flooding and other environmental stresses.
- On the exterior, look for wooden objects that have previous damage from termites or fungi, rotting tree stumps, under bark, in roots of trees, in old wooden fences, sheds and decks, railroad ties, walls or support pillars, in unfilled expansion joints or under old leaf petioles in palms.
- On the interior, inspect wall voids (especially those that have moisture seepage), under attic insulation near eaves, under bathtubs, under windows and door frames, around skylights, behind wood panels, in cracks in floors and under bathroom fixtures.

## Customer Communication

Setting appropriate expectations and communicating the importance of customer collaboration increases the likelihood of success. Be sure to communicate what to expect before and after the treatment and any conducive conditions that require remediation. Best results are seen when the technician and the customer work together. Below are some key things to communicate to the customer:

- For indoor control: Stress the importance of sanitation to your customers. Any type of food or food particles can attract ants. Recommend the customer store food in sealed containers.
- For outdoor control: Discuss the removal of plants that can attract ants, or control aphids, whiteflies and other honeydew-producing insects on plants in and around structures.
  - Trim trees and other landscape features away from the structure that serve as routes ants can use to enter buildings and homes.
  - Remove or temporarily move any materials or vegetation that provide harborage for ants. This includes firewood, wood debris and felled trees.

## Pre-Treatment

- Try to find exterior colonies and determine how they are entering the structure.
- Use your inspection results to determine your treatment plan. Treatment should be based on nest location.
- Ensure all equipment is clean and in good working condition to avoid product contamination that could negatively impact results.
- Always read and follow label instructions and make sure you have all of the required PPE prior to treatment.



## Treatment / Liquid Applications

- **Treatment for carpenter ants nesting on the interior of structures:** For carpenter ants nesting indoors, apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide at a dilution rate of 2 oz. per gallon of water in areas where ants have been active or found trailing. Key areas include under or around baseboards, wall voids, door casings, voids under cabinets, around dishwashers, washing machines and refrigerators.
- **Treatment for carpenter ants nesting on the exterior and foraging/trailing into structures:**
  - **Interior:** Carpenter ants will trail indoors in search of food and water, or during extreme weather conditions. To control ants foraging indoors, apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide as a spot or crack and crevice application at a dilution rate of 2 oz. per gallon of water. Key areas include wall voids, ceilings, sub-floors, attics, hollow doors around base boards, doors, window frames, under sinks, around pipes and attic venting.
  - **Exterior:** Controlling ants outside of the structure is key to preventing indoor infestations. Apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide at a dilution rate of 2 oz. per gallon for residual control around the perimeter of the structure. Key areas include entryways, doors and windows, utility entry points, behind siding, weep holes, eaves and around lights and garbage cans. Treat the structure or make broadcast or spot and/or crack and crevice applications anywhere ants are found trailing. Curative or proactive broadcast treatments can be made to yards, lawns, fields, parks and landscaping.
- **Treatment for carpenter ants found only on the exterior:** For ants foraging/nesting around the structure, apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide as a proactive broadcast treatment, spot and/or crack and crevice application. Apply Sumari<sup>®</sup> Insecticide at a dilution rate of 2 oz. per gallon of water directly to nests or trails.

## Treatment / Baiting Applications

- **Treatment for carpenter ants nesting on the interior of structures (interior bait treatments only):** Carpenter ants are fond of granular baits, but will take gel baits under some conditions. Apply bait in spots 1/8 inch in diameter or in lines 1/8 inch by 3 inches in length near ant trails. Apply bait in discreet areas such as underneath sinks and cabinets, dishwashers, toilets and potted plants or anywhere you see ants trailing.
- **Treatment for exterior carpenter ant nest locations:**
  - Bait placement on the interior of the structure to control carpenter ants should be avoided unless the nest is located on the interior.
  - To bait outdoors, apply bait in spots 1/8 inch in diameter or in lines 1/8 inch by 3 inches in length anywhere you see ants trailing. Common areas include the base of trees, visual trails, weep holes and other entry points around the structure.

1/8 bait spot	1/8 x 3 inch bait line
	

## Post-Treatment

- Re-inspect if ant activity has not ceased after 3-5 days. Make note of any continued activity or foraging, even if ants aren't found on the interior of a structure. Re-treat any areas with such activity to reduce the likelihood of re-infestation.

## Tips and Tricks from the MGK Technical Department

**Pay attention to direction.** Look for trailing ants. If foragers are moving solid food away from the structure, focus your inspection outdoors. If foragers are moving solid food into the structure, focus on the interior or crawlspace.

**Lure them out with food to find hidden nests.** Locating trailing ants is critical. Have your customer pre-bait the ants before you arrive, if they are willing. Have them place a food source like honey, syrup, etc. in areas where they have seen ants (use a piece of wax paper for easy cleanup).

**Ask the right questions.** Customers can give vital information that will focus your inspection. When an ant colony is in a wall void or under the structure, foraging ants can find food in the structure even during a rain event. Ask if the activity stops when it is raining.

**Ants can be picky.** At some point, everyone has applied a bait that was ignored by trailing ants. One reason might be the colony fragment is not looking for food but is moving between nesting sites. Try several baits to determine which is most effective.



## Products



### Sumari® Insecticide

- Kills and controls ants, including multi-queen species, for up to three months
- Contains NyGuard® IGR insect growth regulator
- Dual modes of action
- For indoor and outdoor use, including outdoor broadcast
- No signal word
- Apply as an outdoor broadcast treatment up to two times per year at the high rate
- Convenient all-in-one product



7325 Aspen Ln N  
Minneapolis, MN 55428

TOLL FREE 800.645.6466  
TEL 763.544.0341  
FAX 763.544.6437  
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