

ODOROUS HOUSE ANTS

Ants are the number one pest problem



By: Darin McMahon
Activ Pest Solutions

Are you having problems with pesky ants?

According to the National Pest Control Association, ants have become the number one pest problem. Delaware is no exception and we have the most tenacious ant of them all. Sussex and Kent counties hosts the most reproductive often the most difficult to control, the *odorous house ant*.

DESCRIPTION

The Odorous House Ant is found throughout the United States. This pest is often found foraging for food in long trails over household surfaces and can contaminate food products. Odorous House Ants are tiny, about 1/8" long and are dark brown to black in color. They can be easily identified by the sweet sour coconut odor that is produced when their bodies are crushed.

LIFE CYCLE

Odorous House Ants may develop huge colonies, ranging in size from several hundred to over 100,000 individuals. *These ants can produce hundreds of laying queens and thousands of workers.* The male and female reproductives are often

called winged swarmers. Swarmers first appear in early summer months. The male swarmers will emerge from the parent colony first, followed by the new queen. Odorous House Ants eggs have an incubation period from 11 to 26 day. Each colony will have several queens laying eggs, but each may deposit only one egg per day. The worker and the queens live for several years while males usually die a few days after mating and the mated females begin new colonies. The queens continue laying eggs until late fall. During the winter months you will find adults foraging inside. Cold weather will not stop activity, just decrease it. In spring, workers begin foraging and queens resume their egg laying

BEHAVIOR

Odorous House Ants can nest in many different places both indoors and out. Inside, these ants usually construct their nest in wall voids, under carpets, behind paneling, in crevices, in cupboards and especially around hot water pipes and heaters. Outside, they are found in exposed soil, mulch, usually shallow, and are

stone, boards, bricks and other debris etc... They will use cracks in house to enter as well as tree limbs. They will most likely enter buildings when their honeydew supply or sweet supply of food is reduced by excessive rain or drought. Trimming landscape away from the home and removing stored items such as firewood, potted plants and building material from the foundation will assist in the prevention of an odorous house ant infestation.



Environmentally Sound Solutions



302-645-1502

10% Senior Discount



activpestsolutions.com

