

## ANT CONTROL

Ants, especially carpenter ants, are a common household pest in Michigan. Carpenter ants, which are dark brown or black and one-quarter to one-half inch long, usually restrict their damage to places where the wood has rotted, such as door jambs and window sills.

Since these ants often nest in rotting trees or piles of firewood, removing the trees or relocating the firewood further from the house can help prevent foraging ants from entering the home.

Ants can also be controlled by the use of ant baits. Recent studies have shown that a solution of 1% boric acid in sugar water is not only an effective means for eliminating colonies but is relatively safe for non-target animals. When using such bait, it is important to leave it out and replenish as needed for a couple of weeks to make sure the poison is taken back to the colony.

Another method for controlling carpenter ants in particular is to locate its nest and spray it with a pesticide. However, finding the nest may be difficult if it is somewhere within the walls of the house, and might require the services of a professional exterminator. When using any pesticide, make sure the product is designed for indoor use against ants.

The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

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