

# FACT SHEET Ants

## Ants in Our Environment

Ants live in social colonies. There are over 40 different species of ants in New Zealand, and they can have different habitats, habits and food preferences.

Most species are happy to stay outside, living in the soil, under rocks and other outdoor locations, but there are some that love to be inside your home. They are able to move into your roof, wall cavities or other rooms/areas inside your home.

### **Ant Control**

Ants are not a one-treatment-fits-all pest, so professional treatment is required.

Early detection, species identification and food source elimination are important elements in the treatment process.

We have a specialised range of products that cause minimal disruption during application, are very low in toxicity to humans and pets, and offer long term control.

Depending on the species of ant, our technicians may recommend multiple treatments in heavily infested situations.

### **Precautions Before and After Treatment**

Prior to our treatment, we recommend that all open food stuffs are put away. It is not necessary to remove crockery and utensils from cupboards as our methods target cracks, crevices and places where the pests live and breed.

#### What to Expect After Your Treatment

Initially you may see an increase in ant numbers as they come in contact with the treatment. This is normal and will reduce over several weeks.

# How to Get the Best From Your Treatment

It's important that household cleaning products should not be used where we have treated, and limit cleaning of these areas. Also, do not use any DIY pest control products. If the ants come back after treatment, please call us.

- Remove Food: Clean up all food waste and spillages immediately; keep food in tight sealed containers; seal up your rubbish bags; and avoid leaving pet food around for long periods of time. Make sure that you pay particular attention to cleaning bench tops and appliances, and sealing cracks and crevices.
  - Trim Vegetation: Keep general vegetation around the home under control to aid in ant control. Trees and bushes should not be touching the building, gutter or eaves, and overhanging branches should be trimmed back. It's all too easy for ants to make their way into your home via these 'bridges'.

#### Ant Identification



A. Black House

Ant



**B.** Darwins Ant



C. Brown House Ant







**D.** White Footed House Ant

**B.** Argentine Ant

