Pharaoh’s Ants

Description.

This Ant species originates from tropical areas. It was probably introduced to this country in the early 19th century and has survived where it has found suitably warm buildings.

The Ants are small typically 2mm long and a pale straw yellow colour with a darker head.

They live in well defined social groups. Worker ants are the ones usually noticed as they forage for food away from the nest.

Habitat and Lifestyle.

The tropical origins of the ant are indicated by the requirement for relatively high temperatures around 18°C minimum with and optimum of 30°C. The ants are therefore often associated around warm areas like central heating systems, hot water storage, ovens and refrigeration motors (anywhere temperatures are likely to be regularly high).

Infestations can be hard to control because the ants can spread by ‘budding’ where groups of worker ants and a queen leave the main nest to form another colony, and so on, until there may be many nests in one area.

These nests function as separate colonies and each separate nest will need to receive treatment if proper control of an infestation is to be gained.

The ants can forage for a wide variety of food and they need access to water.

Signs and Traces of Pharaoh’s Ants.

The worker ants may become a nuisance when they search for food and water. They are able to communicate information regarding the location of suitable food and water sites to other workers.

It is common to see long narrow trails of worker ants moving to and from the nest, to food they have found.

It is also common to see ants searching out water for drinking and this can bring them into contact with drains and other contaminated areas.

Control.

Pharaoh’s Ants can be difficult to control and the service of a professional pest control company is recommended.

You can try to discourage the Ants by reducing their potential food sources. Food spillage and food waste must be thoroughly and regularly removed. Try also to keep all stored food in containers which will prevent the insects gaining access.

If you have noticed ants inside your building we advise you to seek professional pest control help to identify the insects (they may just be garden ants), and to recommend appropriate control.

How We Can Help.

If you notice a Pharaoh’s Ant problem you can call us for assistance. All our Pest Control Officers have nationally recognised qualifications in pest control.
We can identify the type of insect and provide advice on appropriate pest control treatment, the identification of sites providing possible harbourage and on good housekeeping a survey of the premises can be included.

We can also provide treatments including the laying of poisons. Charges will be fully explained before any work is agreed so it is clear what service you will be paying for.

If you are a tenant of the City of London Housing Department call your Housing Officer to agree payment of any charges. They will normally then contact us if they agree to our assistance in treating your premises.

We aim to respond to requests for service within 24 hours by calling you to give advice and if necessary to arrange an appointment for an initial visit, whenever possible this will be done within 3 days of your call.

The Pest Control Officer who visits will discuss the findings of their survey and offer advice on appropriate action. If treatment with pesticides is recommended and you agree to the work being done a charge will be made for the treatment.

Written information about the recommended action and any pesticide will be left with you. It is very important that any poison is left undisturbed.

Follow up action will be discussed and the number of visits thought necessary to remove any problem. Follow up treatment will nearly always be necessary to ensure all nests sites have been dealt with properly.

Regular service contracts can also be arranged to monitor large and commercial premises for activity.

If at any time you have a concern about the level of service provided please inform the Pest Control Manager on Tel 020 7332 3313 or write to: Pest Control Manager at the address below.

You will receive a reply in 10 days. If you are still not satisfied contact the Environmental Health & Public Protection Director Mr Jon Averns.

For more information, advice, or to arrange a visit, contact the City of London Pest Control Team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telephone:</th>
<th>020 7332 3313</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
<td>020 7332 1623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DES.GeneralEnq@cityoflondon.gov.uk">DES.GeneralEnq@cityoflondon.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact: The Pest Control Manager, Environmental Health Department, City of London, Walbrook Wharf, 78-83 Upper Thames Street, London EC4R3TD