



ANT CONTROL MEASURES

This information comes from the Lane County Extension Service and local exterminator. First determine the type of ants. Carpenter ants are very large and some have wings. Let us know if you see these. The rest are several of any small, unwinged ants. These "common" or "sugar ants" are very persistent and are very difficult to eliminate. It is likely that they will always come back, no matter what you do. They are worse when food is available to them, the slightest crumbs or scents will attract them. They leave a scent trail that is good for years and very hard to eliminate. Terro is the best stuff available (or any borax product that they will flock to and eat), find the place they are coming in (This helps keep them from walking all over the house to find it) Feed them Terro near that place or several entry points very consistently for as long as it takes, often several weeks. Then the next wave might come and you have to do it again. They carry it to the nest and feed the little ones, killing them at their source. It is better not to use poison sprays, as it drives them into temporary hiding, where they can concentrate on making more ants. With this treatment eventually, they will slow down or disappear for up to several years at a time. Once you are feeding them near the source of entries, it can also help to spray counters and hard floors with bleach solution and scrub off the scent trails. On carpets you have to use ammonia/water solution NOT BLEACH to avoid damaging carpet!!! This will help eliminate scent trails and concentrate them at the source of entry where you are feeding them.

It costs \$125.00 - \$175.00 or \$35.00-\$50.00 a month to have exterminator spray for ants. It is nasty stuff sprayed in and around the house and it will slow them down for a while, but it does not get at the nest like Terro. They only guarantee it for 3 months. Owners are not willing to pay for this treatment, as it is often rendered ineffective by unclean situations and food sources left out for the ants. Some houses may seem worse than others that have been left untreated for long periods, with the ants well fed by previous occupants, but almost every house in Eugene is prone to, or has had ant problems at one time or another.