

EnviroSafe, Inc.

P.O. Box 151011

Grand Rapids, MI 49515-1011



(800) 226-0418 • Local: (616) 364-1890 • Fax: (616) 364-1891 • E-mail: EnviroSafe@aol.com

EnviroSafe Steps for Ants

The four most important steps to ant management are limiting eating areas, sanitation, exclusion and food storage. **It is very important that the custodial staff has the cooperation of all staff members and students to insure successful ant management.** Unlike other pests, ants do not pose a serious threat to the users of your facilities. For this reason we would ask that everyone involved in the issue of ant management remain calm.

- 1) The **most important step** in combating ants is to be sure that eating areas are limited and that they are cleaned thoroughly on a daily basis. If there is no food they are not going to stay long. Proper sanitation also eliminates cluttered and disorganized areas. It is very important that items that are not being used be removed from the building or discarded. Clutter promotes pest problems. **This is an area that will require the assistance of the administrator and the teaching staff.** It is amazing how many times we are told that the ants are only there when there is food on the floor.
- 2) One way to resolve an ant problem is to not let them in. If the ants are coming through a crack in the wall or floor the use of a good silicone caulk will often times resolve the problem. Latex and siliconized acrylic caulks do not work for sealing out ants - they quickly chew through these caulks. If the crack is deep it is helpful to put dry borax in the crack and then seal the crack. We use Silicone II which is a low odor formulation.
- 3) Since it is not realistic that you will be able to seal all the entry points, it is very important that proper storage must be followed. Please be sure that food items are stored in sealed glass, metal or heavy plastic containers. Zip lock bags do not classify as proper storage. Please remember items like colored macaroni, rice, candy, cookies, crackers, etc. are ant food. Inspect those preschool and kindergarten rooms and talk to the teachers about sealing these items.
- 4) In areas of ant activity it is important to clean these areas with **Super C Professional Cleaner**. This enzyme cleaner helps to remove the pheromones associated with ant trails as well as the minute food sources that the ants are feeding on. For general cleaning you can mop with 1 to 2 ounces per gallon. You can also add a cup of borax per gallon of mop water to help with these problem areas. When mixing, add the borax to the water last.
- 5) You can mix a ¼ cup of peanut butter or light corn syrup with 1 to 2 teaspoons of borax laundry soap. Place this mix in areas of ant activity. To determine which to use, watch what the ants are eating.
- 6) It is important that you vacuum up any visible ants and sand before doing this step. Placing any of the following in areas of ant activity has proven to be very helpful in reducing their numbers by eliminating their scent trail: dry borax, talcum powder, medicated body powder and Castile peppermint soap. The first three of these should be placed down dry and swept or brushed into the crack the ants are coming in through. Peppermint soap should be squirted straight from the bottle into the crack. To protect these products from being mopped or swept away we suggest you lightly cover the crack with duct tape after applying the product. It usually takes about 10 to 14 days for the scent trail to be totally removed. After 14 days remove the duct tape and clean up any remaining product. Then seal the entrance point with a good silicone caulk as described above.

If you have followed these procedures and continue to see ants, contact EnviroSafe, Inc. Thank you.

HOME REMEDIES FOR PEST CONTROL

The following information was given to EnviroSafe, Inc. by Kenneth Olds a Pesticide Specialist with the US Army at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The reason they are included here is to show that there are many ways people have used to control insect pests. Mr. Olds does not claim they work but rather that they have been used. We at EnviroSafe will tell you that many on this list will work. We feel that starting with these least toxic means of control is a better way then starting with pesticides. These alternatives do not constitute an IPM program but rather some procedures that could be included in a IPM program.

Ants

- Vinegar to get rid of tiny ants.
- One clove of garlic, one onion, one tablespoon of cayenne pepper and a quart of water.
- Steep for one hour, add a tablespoon of liquid soap and spray it around the house" for ant and roach control.
- Mixing baking soda with powdered sugar and applying to infested areas.
- Wash kitchen surfaces with vinegar solution and sprinkling bone meal, chili powder and powdered charcoal in and around suspected points of entry.
- Pour a line of any of the following where the ants are entering the building: cinnamon, cream of tartar, red chili pepper, salt, dried mint or sage, or cucumber peelings.
- Apply perfume to the entry point.
- Mix a tablespoon of sugar and a tablespoon of borax with 2 tablespoons of water. Soak cotton balls in mixture and place on low lids.
- Band sticky , adhesive materials around base of plants and trees to deter ants, which can carry and colonize aphids.
- Border gardens with bone meal.
- Mix 2 tablespoons boric acid, 2 tablespoons sugar and a cup of water. Soak paper towels place on dishes, and set out for ants. (Remember in Michigan schools this would require parent notification.)
- Mix 4 ounces of mint jelly with 2 tablespoons of powdered boric acid. Cut small squares of masking tape and dab mixture on tape. Stick on floors behind cabinets and appliances. (Remember in Michigan schools this would require parent notification.)
- Pour boiling water over the nest. Sprinkle dry borax laundry soap on areas of ant activity. Be careful with borax around plants it can kill them.
- Pour a line of cream of tartar or chili powder where ants enter house and they will not cross it.
- Mixture of 10 1/2 ounces of water, 3 ounces of Tabasco sauce, 2 1/2 ounces of peppermint soap liquid (available at health food stores). Spray where ants enter the home.
- Combine: 1 part active yeast, 2 parts molasses and 1 part sugar. Mix the ingredients well. Drop a teaspoonful on several small squares of white paper. Place the paper squares along ant trails where they will not be disturbed. How does it work? The ants are attracted to the sugary feast and will consume it readily. The action of the yeast, however, will produce gas their bellies which they cannot rid themselves of. They essentially will pop. The best part of this method of pest control is that it utilizes no chemicals which could harm you or your family.
- Take 3 parts Apple Jelly and 1 part boric acid. Mix ingredients thoroughly. Cut standard soda straws into 2- 3 inch pieces. Fill a 5- 10 ml disposable syringe (without needle) with mixture. Use this to fill soda straw pieces. Place in areas that ants have been observed.
- Keep out of reach of children and animals. (Remember in Michigan schools this would require parent notification.)