

## Carpenter Ant

**Size:** Workers are 1/4 – 1/2" long.  
Queens are 1/2 – 5/8" long.



**Description:**

- Most common colour is light black with some red and black.
- Antenna are 12 segmented with no clubs.
- Thorax is evenly rounded on upper side with no spines.
- Pedicel is 1 segmented.
- Abdomen is lightly covered in golden hairs with anal end surrounded by circlet of hairs.
- Stinger is absent.

**Habits and Signs of Infestation:** Many homeowners notice Carpenter Ants inside their home in the late winter early spring, when snow is still on the ground. This observation confirms that the colony is in fact inside the voids of the home from at least the previous warm season. Worker ants in your dishwasher, recycling, sink etc. at this time of year are foraging for starches and sugars. The warm sun of late winter season motivates these ants to forage inside the home until it is warm enough to venture out.

**Important Note:** The biggest mistake many homeowners do, is panic and spray all over the interior of the home. Killing off some of the workers and scattering the queen(s) and nest area. **REFRAIN FROM SPRAYING AND CALL A PROFESSIONAL!!!**

In the late Spring – Summer months the ants forage outside, or along the house perimeter sections feeding on insect honeydew, insects, fruit juices and a variety of human sweets. Carpenter Ants will forage over 300 ft. from their nest colonies and are not always nesting in homes. Old trees, stumps, sheds, patio decks, flower bed planters, retaining walls all provide ideal conditions for colonies to establish themselves.

**Control:** These ants have very complex colonies and are one of the hardest Ontario Ant species to locate and eliminate. Interior site inspections to determine and locate colonies, usually involves as much time as the actual treatments. Proper inspections can only be completed in warm weather months between May and September when worker ants are actively foraging. Inspections completed in fall – winter months have very low probability of pin pointing an interior void ant colony unless homeowner or a contractor has opened up a wall and accidentally discovered the colony. Once confirmation of the void containing the ants is determined it is the same treatment as the Acrobat Ants. Dust and surround the entire colony with dust insecticide.

**Thorough + Positive + Void + Dust & Surround = Elimination**  
**Inspection I.D. Location Colony**

**Anything Less is a band – aid approach to limited success!!!**