

A-Plus Notes

Have you been to our new location at 4120 W. Oakton St.? For pictures of our Grand Opening - please visit

www.apluspest.com

A-Plus Services

(Commercial and Residential)

- Ants
- Wasps
- Hornets
- Yellow Jackets
- Bees
- Termite Inspections
- Odor Control
- Cockroaches/Waterbugs
- Mice/Rodents
- Mosquitoes
- Perimeter Treatments
- Flies
- Moths
- Earwigs
- Centipedes
- Spiders
- Sanitation Programs**
- DrainForce System for Commercial Kitchen Drains and Garbage Chutes
- Moisture Control with Temp-Vents**



Residential Tips

Ask Rick . . .

This past winter, many people have asked,

"Are the ants still coming?"

"What about mosquitoes, ladybugs and even mice?"

"What insects and other pests will we see in Chicagoland this spring and summer?"

Keep reading for my answers below and check our website (www.apluspest.com) for more details and links.

In the warm months the ants will still be coming and will continue to come all year. Ants have become our most prevalent pest problem in Chicagoland and can be the toughest pests to control. Ant control depends on the species as well as other environmental factors. My first suggestion is **"Do not spray inside."** Because ants are social insects, the worker ants search for food using pheromone (scent) trails. This is how they find their way back to their colony. If you spray over these trails, the ants could form new colonies or nests in different areas. You could be causing two to three times the original problem. Use ant traps; treat the perimeter; hit them with a newspaper or a shoe -

But Do Not Spray!!

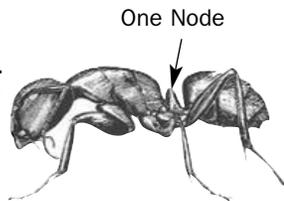
ants

Carpenter Ants

These ants are large. They are a nuisance by their presence when found in parts of the home such as the kitchen, bathroom, living room, and other quarters. They do not eat wood, but remove quantities of it to expand their nest size, sometimes causing structural damage. Winged males are smaller than winged queens. Wingless queens measure 5/8 inch, winged queens 3/4 inch, large major workers 1/2 inch, and small minor workers 1/4 inch.

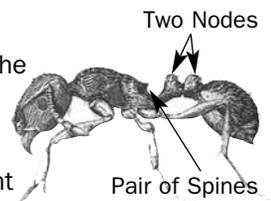
Carpenter ants normally build their nests in hollow trees, logs, posts, landscaping timbers and wood used in homes and other structures. They prefer moist or partially decayed wood, frequently entering existing cavities or void areas through cracks and crevices.

The ants usually cut galleries with the grain of the wood, following the softer parts. They usually nest in wood that is very moist or previously damaged by water or termites. A colony develops best in wood with moisture content above 12 to 15 percent. This requires the wood to be wet by rain, leaks, or continuous high relative humidity or condensation. Carpenter ants can and do travel up to 100 yards from their nest site.



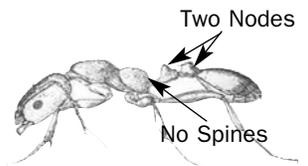
Pavement Ants

Pavement Ants one of the most common tiny house invading ants with nests usually found outdoors under stones, in pavement cracks, along the curb edges, in crevices of masonry and woodwork. Pavement ants may forage in the home throughout the year, feeding on grease, meat, live and dead insects, roots of plants and planted seeds. Workers are sluggish, between 1/12 to 1/4 inch long, light to dark brown or blackish. In winter, nests may be found in the home near a heat. Although they generally do not do damage, pavement ants can be a nuisance. They can get large and look like carpenter ants but there are biological distinctions. Some pest control companies will tell you that these are carpenter ants to scare you. Little black ants are just that, very small and are just a nuisance. Again, use ant traps and call me for a free inspection and for a Broadcast Perimeter Treatment.



Pharaoh Ants

These ants are tiny (workers are about 1/16" and are yellowish or very light brown and tend to



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Pharaoh Ants

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hide in electrical outlets. If you treat them with boric acid, they will scatter, and again, make more nests. Bait stations may not work. They look similar to little black ants, but you will need a professional to correctly identify them. Do not attempt to treat these ants yourself. Again, call my office for a free inspection.

Mosquitoes

Mosquito bites cause itching and irritation, and scratching may result in infected sores. Mosquitoes also transmit serious and sometimes fatal diseases to humans and their pets. The best way to prevent West Nile encephalitis and other mosquito borne illnesses is to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood and to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites.



Ladybugs



The Asian lady beetle is a common and widespread wintertime household pest across most of the United States. Large numbers of these insects invade homes during the fall and remain active over the winter, especially in late winter when temperatures warm and days get longer. Ladybugs do not feed and cannot reproduce indoors; they have not multiplied indoors although it must seem that way to homeowners who have been inundated with them.

Other Common Insects

Centipedes, millipedes, earwigs, pillbugs, sowbugs, crickets, and more . . .

A **Broadcast Perimeter Treatment** will put up a barrier around your home to keep these pests from coming in.

Source: IPCO Website and Illinois Dept. of Public Health websites. Visit www.apluspest.com for more article information and links.

Mouse Tip:



Don't forget mice can even enter your house during the summer. Make sure to seal up any opening 1/4' or larger to prevent their entrance

What does it mean?

*"We Do It Like
We Live There!"*

When you've had a long day and you're really tired, you still must do the very best job where you are. At this point, whether you're in a restaurant, a home, an apartment or any other building, the place that you are is your only customer. Forget how tired you feel and treat it "like you live there!" You would not poison your own family and you would do the most thorough and complete job in your own home. If you've met any of our technicians, you know that they truly "do it like we live there!" No excuses, just great service!

Check the A-Plus website (www.apluspest.com) for more info and updates. Click on ASK RICK or FAQ or explore our links.

Selecting a Pest Control Service

A homeowner can often control household pests through a combination of preventive measures, including proper sanitation and over-the-counter pesticides. However, some pest infestations may be extensive or a particular pest may be difficult to control, requiring the services of a pest control operator (PCO). Selecting a PCO should be like choosing any other service: look at value for the dollar spent. When you are using pesticides, cost should not be the only factor that determines which PCO you use. It is important to ensure that the PCO chosen is competent because both health and property can be damaged through the misuse of pesticides.

Purchase Pest Control Services from a Competent Firm

To help in the selection of a pest control service, ask the following questions:

"Will the person performing the services be a certified technician?"

Each business must employ at least one state-certified technician to use or oversee the use of pesticides.

"Does your company hold a membership in a professional pest control association?"

These organizations promote continuing education and training in the pest control industry.

"Would you provide me with a copy of your pest control license, insurance certificate and copies of labels for all pesticides that will be used?"

Businesses are required to be state-licensed and maintain insurance coverage at all times. Pesticide labels will indicate how the product should be applied and the precautions to be taken.

To help in the selection of a pest control service, see our website, www.apluspest.com for questions you should ask, along with articles and links to more information.

Call Today for a
Free Estimate or to
Schedule a Broadcast
Treatment

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rick@apluspest.com

Website
www.apluspest.com



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A-Plus Special

Schedule your Broadcast Treatments (Spring and Fall) by April 30 and receive

10%

 off
Payment for both treatments must be made before 5/31/04

Web Special
Check out our website at www.apluspest.com for a coupon good for an additional 10% off any service

Having a Outdoor Party?

Call us about a Preventative Mosquito Treatment so you and your guests can enjoy the outdoors without it enjoying you!

A-Plus Pest Control, Inc. – People and Environmentally Safe, Full Service Pest Control