

Technical Guide about pest encountered in KAUST and how it is being controlled.

ANT PEST : Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

Ants are considered social insects and organize themselves in colonies. They communicate using their olfactory receptors – in other words, they use their scent to pass important information to other ants in the colony. This is the reason why “the ants go marching one by one” or travel in a straight line, returning to the same locations time and time again.

Ants typically enter your home looking for food or moisture; some species may move in during cold weather months looking for warmth, as well. Knowing this, there are several steps you can take right now to help deter ants from your home this season.

Many homes and business establishments become infested with ants when they are introduced inside through cracks and crevices, foodstuffs, and other materials. Carpenter ants, small Black ants, and Pharaoh ants are the commonly found ants KAUST.



Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Assess the area to identify the source of pest and the species of ants to determine the appropriate treatment method.
2. Implement control following the applicable IPM principles, starting with:
 - **Cultural control** – remove food scrap, vacuum the floor and eliminate food residue. Advice to resident to follow this steps as prevention.
 - **Mechanical control** – sealing entry points such as cracks and crevices on wall and floor. Coordinate with Maintenance to complete this task.
 - **Chemical control** – if pesticide is needed, start with least-toxic approved pesticides using Sodium Borate bait trap. This can be followed by applying 0.1 to 1.0 gram spots of Advion Ant Gel - *Indoxacarb 0.05%* (WHO Class: II, Local Reg.: 1888-142-1361) at foraging trails. If infestation is sever, a highly diluted Tandem SC – *Thiamethoxam 11.6% EC* (WHO Class: II, Local Reg.: 204-143-1380) can be sprayed. Use all of these pesticides as per label claims.
3. Monitor the issue after applying the control and keep records for tracking. A baited glue traps to gauge the activity is a considerable option.

What you can do at home to prevent ants problem

- Clean up food and beverage spills immediately.
- Store highly-attractive foods in sealed containers: cereals, sugars, dried fruits, etc.
- Clean up and put away pet food after pets are done eating.
- Do not overwater indoor plants.
- Ensure that sprinkler systems in your garden are not causing ponding or puddling.
- Call 959 to repair leaks or moisture and to seal cracks and crevices where ants may be present.