

FAST FACTS

- o There are more than 12,000 species of ants all over the world.
- o An ant can lift 20 times its own body weight.
- o When **foraging** ants leave a **pheromone** trail, so that they know where they've been.
- o Some queen ants can live for many years and have *millions* of babies!
- o Ants don't have ears. Ants "hear" by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet.
- o Ants don't have lungs. They breath through tiny holes all over their body.
- o When ants fight, it is usually to the death!
- o When the queen of the colony dies, the colony can only survive a few months.

General Information

Carpenter Ants get their name because they build their nests in wood and can damage to the wood in your house. Each colony is established by a single, fertilized queen. She starts her nest in a cavity in wood, where she raises her first brood of workers. She feeds them saliva and does not leave the nest or feed herself during this time.

When they are ready, those workers then get the job of gathering food to feed the next generation. Once mature, this first generation of worker ants work to increase the food supply for the colony. A colony can eventually produce 2,000 or more workers.

Size: 5/8"	Common Name: Carpenter Ant
Shape: Segmented, Oval	Kingdom: Animalia
Color: Range in color from red to black.	Phylum: Arthropoda
Legs: 6	Class: Insecta
Wings: Varies	Order: Hymenoptera
Antenna: Yes	Family: Formicidae
	Genus Species: Camponotus

Diet

Carpenter ants do not eat the wood they remove during nest-building activities, but deposit it outside entrances to the colony in small piles. The diet of carpenter ants includes living and dead insects, meat fats and sugary foods of all kinds, including honeydew and nectar from plants.

Habitat

Carpenter ants build nests anywhere they can find water and in moldy or damp wood, such as tree stumps, firewood or in the plants around your house. Carpenter ants also build nests inside, usually entering buildings through wet, damaged wood, although it isn't uncommon for them to adapt to drier environments.

Impact

Carpenter ants don't carry disease, but when building a nest inside a home, they dig smooth tunnels inside the wood. These tunnels weaken the wood and potentially damage the wood that keeps the house standing. This kind of damage can be very expensive to fix.



Prevention

- * Eliminate standing water. Pests, such as ants, mosquitoes and termites are attracted to moisture.
- * Keep tree branches and other plants cut back from the house. Sometimes pests use these branches to get into your home.
- * Make sure that there are no cracks or little openings around the bottom of your house. Pests can use these cracks to get into your home.
- * Make sure that firewood and building materials are not stored next to your home. Pests like to build nests in stacks of wood.

To learn more about this and other ants, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/ants.html>