

# ODOROUS HOUSE ANT INFO SHEET

## **FAST FACTS**

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

## **General Information**

This ant gets its name from the strong, rotten coconut-like smells it gives off when crushed and the fact that they commonly nest in or around houses. Native to the United States, these ants are very social - living in colonies of up to 100,000 members.

<b>Size:</b> 1/16"-1/8"	<b>Common Name:</b> Odorous House Ants
<b>Shape:</b> Segmented, Oval	<b>Kingdom:</b> Animalia
<b>Color:</b> Brown or Black	<b>Phylum:</b> Arthropoda
<b>Legs:</b> 6	<b>Class:</b> Insecta
<b>Wings:</b> Varies	<b>Order:</b> Hymenoptera
<b>Antenna:</b> Yes	<b>Family:</b> Formicidae
	<b>Genus Species:</b> Tapinoma sessile

## **Diet**

Odorous house ants like to eat dead insects and sugary sweets, especially melon.

## **Habitat**

Typically living for several years, these ants commonly make their homes in exposed soil, under stones, logs, mulch, debris and other items. They will also nest in wall and floor cracks.

## **Impact**

Odorous House ants do not pose a health threat, but they can contaminate food by leaving waste behind.

**See other side for suggestion on preventing this pest.**



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## **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. Sometimes pests use these 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>