

Pest of the Month - June 2003

Carpenter Ants (camponotus)



You may have been noticing "flying ants" outside for these past few weeks. These are the reproductive carpenter ant swarmers looking for a mate and a home. Should you be concerned? Maybe. If you are seeing more than a few inside and or for a length of time then yes you should be calling a Pest Control Professional to identify any infestation and to recommend treatment.

Carpenter ants are a wood destroyer that should not be ignored. Left alone they can do hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to your dwelling. Galleries of carpenter ants have a smooth, sandpapered appearance. (We have examples at our office and bring to trade shows). We have seen damage also in foam insulation, newspaper, and shingles. You can often see piles of sawdust near a nest where they have pushed it out to make more room. Contrary to their name they don't actually eat wood but rather feed on plant and animal material.

Since a colony of ants includes the queen, workers, larvae, and pupae they vary in size. Satellite colonies are established after the queen has cared for the first brood then the workers take over feeding.

To help prevent an infestation there are several things you can do around your home:

- Keep beauty bark away from perimeter of home
- Don't stack wood near your home and keep it off the ground (pallets work great)
- Make sure you have adequate venting
- Have a vapor barrier in your crawlspace
- Repair any leaks in gutters and roofs

Remember we can come to your home for a free Peace of Mind inspection. Call us today 533-8800 or toll free 800-640-8089