

PROBLEMS WITH ANTS?

MANAGE SEASONAL ANTS LIKE A PRO. (NO ANTEATER REQUIRED)

1 DON'T USE ANT SPRAYS.

Sprays expose your family to pesticides, and they are the top source of creek pesticide pollution in the Bay Area. They are also ineffective. Most of an ant colony is underground so a spray kills only 1% of the infestation.

2 REMOVE WHAT THEY'RE AFTER.

Clean up food and spills. Store food in sealed containers.

3 STOP THE TRAIL.

Spray lines of ants with soapy water and wipe up. This removes their scent trail.

4 CAULK HOLES AND CRACKS.

The most effective measure to ant-proof your home is applying diatomaceous earth in wall openings and cracks before permanently closing openings with silicone caulk.

5 CAN'T BLOCK OR FIND AN ENTRY POINT?

Place an ant bait station with borax (tetraborate decahydrate) or hydramethylnon on the trail the ants have been following. Resist killing the ants: they are carrying the bait back to their colony.

6 TOLERATE ANTS OUTSIDE WHEN YOU CAN.

Ants serve an important function in soil aeration and garden cleanup.

7 ANTS IN PET BOWL?

Partially fill a wide, shallow container with soapy water and place pet bowls in the water.

NEED EXPERT HELP?


Visit ourwaterourworld.org to find a store in your area that carries less-toxic solutions and for information on managing ants and other common pests.

Want to hire a service?

Visit mywatershedwatch.org for a pest control provider who understands how to safely stop reoccurring pest problems.

Learn more about pollution prevention at
www.PaloAlto.gov/wastewatertreatment-residents
Questions? (650) 329-2122

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