



Odorous House Ant

The Odorous House Ant (*Tapinoma sessile*) is a significant pest throughout the Northwest, causing trouble for businesses who try to control them with the general "spray and pray" method. A few reasons why control evades the commercial customer:

Odorous House Ants have Large Colonies-

- A Colony is often made up of numerous satellite colonies which can create a super colony
- A single mature colony can contain more than one hundred thousand ants including hundreds of egg-laying queens

Odorous House Ants reproduce by "Budding"-

- Colonies form when mated queen leaves the nest with workers to establish a new nesting site
- Budding can also be forced upon the colony when adverse environmental conditions occur or when repellent materials are used to control them (over the counter sprays)
- Budding often occurs as a defense mechanism

Odorous House Ants are a "Tramp" species-

- They are adaptable and nest above ground in trees, on roofs, in soil and under objects on the exterior
- They are adaptable and readily move into homes to establish nests in almost any secluded spot, including wall voids, behind paneling and under floors



- Odorous house ants are typically 1/6th to 1/8th inch in length with a single flat node concealed by the base of the abdomen
- Their coloring is brown to black and when crushed they emit a rotten coconut odor
- They enjoy feeding on sweet materials
- 10 to 14 days after the control program is instituted a resurgence may occur as the colony begins to breakdown

Control Measures –

1. Everything begins with a professional inspection. It is vital to be sure of the species of ant that is present on the property. This inspection will include the interior and exterior, and an honest appraisal of the property managers view of the issue.
2. From the findings of the inspection, a written recommendation is provided to establish clear expectations for everyone involved and a successful management plan.
3. A meeting between the customer and the technical advisor should take place to review the findings and recommendations in step two and agreement reached for a control and maintenance program.
4. Once a control program is agreed upon, the implementation of control measures follow the four levels of control;
 - ✓ Access denial and exclusion to refuse odorous house ant entry
 - ✓ Habitat and harborage modification, making the location undesirable
 - ✓ Physical and mechanical modifications to keep them out
 - ✓ Judicious use of slow acting non-repellant materials and baits to gain long lasting control

For more information, please call Fikes Pest Control at (800) 900-1083