

5 Critical Questions to ask before selecting a Pest Control Company

1. HOW LONG HAS THE COMPANY BEEN IN BUSINESS?

You need a company with a proven track record . . . one that will be around for the long-term.

2. IS THE PEST CONTROL COMPANY PROACTIVE?

Your pest control company should have a proactive plan to keep pests out of your structure - before they get in and contaminate your living or work space. Many pest control companies are reactive, treating pests after they have penetrated your environment. That doesn't keep bugs away for long, and it can actually compound the problem.

3. WILL A TRAINED, CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN INSPECT AND TREAT MY HOME OR BUSINESS?

The technician inspecting and treating your home or business should be professionally trained and continually educated. Truly Nolen employs trainers who make sure our state-certified technicians are up to speed on the latest technology and most advanced techniques available.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THE INDUSTRY. DOES YOUR COMPANY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

Your pest control company should use state-of-the-art methods that are environmentally sensitive. Truly Nolen technicians combine the strategic application of baits with natural, long-lasting materials to treat the interior of your structure.

5. WHAT IS THE COST OF THE PEST CONTROL SERVICE?

There are many variables in the price that pest management companies charge. What you are purchasing is protection - for your home or business, your family and your customers. While Truly Nolen is not the least expensive, we take great pride in delivering the most value for your money. Keep in mind that the difference between the most and least expensive companies is often just a dollar a day.

Ask your Truly Nolen inspector for a . . .

Complimentary Pest Inspection



You'll receive a written report describing the pest management tasks that need to be addressed in your home or business. You'll find that this report is a valuable tool, regardless of your final decision.

[Location] Pest Division
[address]



Truly on... the Ant

"Need to know" information on commercial issues and pest management



Courtesy of the
[Location] Pest Division
1-000-000-0000

Facts

- There are an estimated 10,000 ant species in the world.
- The smallest ant measures .8mm long, while the largest ant is a whopping 1-5/8" long.
- Ants are social insects, living in a colony composed of hundreds of thousands of insects. The colony has a rigid caste system consisting of one or more queens, males and workers, which include soldiers and reproductives. Each caste is very task specific, working for the benefit of the entire colony. The various castes must live together cooperatively in order to survive.
- Conditions conducive to ant infestation include an adequate food supply, harborage, a moisture source and adequate climatic conditions. While ants have adapted to most climatic conditions seen in the U.S., different species have different needs.



- Ants feed on a variety of foods, including most foods in the human environment. Varying with each species, ants will consume honeydew, sweets, proteins, oils, seeds, meats, plants, live insects (e.g., aphids, other ants, termites, etc.) and dead insect remains. The colony's food choices are based on the pheromones the queen releases.

- While inconvenient in the human environment, ants serve a purpose in nature. They are predatory. Ants consume termites, bed bugs and a multitude of other insects. As scavengers, the ant population recycles organic materials. Their subterranean activities aerate and revitalize top soil. The colony's subterranean food locker can enrich the soil over time. Ants can even pollinate plants. And, some human populations consume ants. Yes, ants are a delicacy in some cultures.

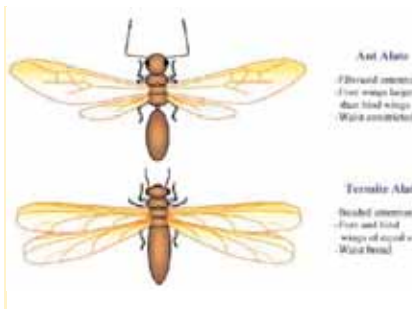


Crazy Ant This medium sized (1/12-1/8" long) ant is reddish-brown to gray-black in color, with a long and slender body. It lives in the soil or under objects resting on the soil, such as portable outbuildings and dumpsters, and routinely inhabits trash piles and rotting wood. This ant forages both indoors and outdoors, seeking sweets, proteins, fats and food crumbs. It also consumes live and dead insects. Since it can forage long distances, it may be difficult to locate the nest.

Argentine Ant This medium-sized (1/10" long) ant is light to dark brown in color with one node. It emits a stale, greasy smell when crushed. While it forages indoors and outdoors, it normally does not nest indoors, although it has been known to enter vehicles. The Argentine ant can nest in both dry and wet soils and is often found in landscaped areas, under objects sitting atop soil, near tree roots, in rotting wood and in refuse piles.



Common Ant Species



Harvester ant This large (1/4-5/8" long), square-headed ant is a dull, reddish-brown uniform color with two nodes. It readily stings when provoked, injecting an irritating poison.

This outdoor species builds large, flat, disc-shaped ground nests in full sun. The nest perimeter is bare, with numerous small, uniform objects surrounding the entrance. This ant forages in large numbers, collecting seeds, plant parts, other insects and decomposing organic matter.



Impact

While serving a beneficial role, the ant can pose a serious public health threat. It can be a disease vector, transmitting Salmonella and a host of other bacteria.

In a medical or food processing environment, an ant infestation can have serious ramifications. There have been reports of ants foraging on hospital patients, even invading the tubing of various life support devices.



While an ant sting or bite can be just an annoyance, there are documented reports of ants attacking unconscious hospital patients and infants, causing injury and, in rare instances, even death.

Identification

One-Noded Ants	Two-Noded Ants
Carpenter	Acrobat
Crazy	Fire
Argentine	Pharaoh
Ghost	Thief
Pyramid	Harvester
Small Honey	Pavement
Odorouse House	Leaf Cutter
Allegheny Mound	Big-Headed
White-Footed	Little Black
Velvety Tree	Little Fire

The most important identifying ant characteristic is part of the ant's abdomen.

The abdomen is composed of the gaster and the **pedicel**. The pedicel is a narrow segment between the thorax and the gaster. The pedicel consists of one or two segments that are commonly called **nodes**. The Truly Nolen pest professional uses these structures to

make his/her preliminary identification of the specimen.

Why? Because ants are divided into one node and two node species.

**Who stings?
The two-noded ant.**

