

Advice Note



PEST CONTROL SERIES

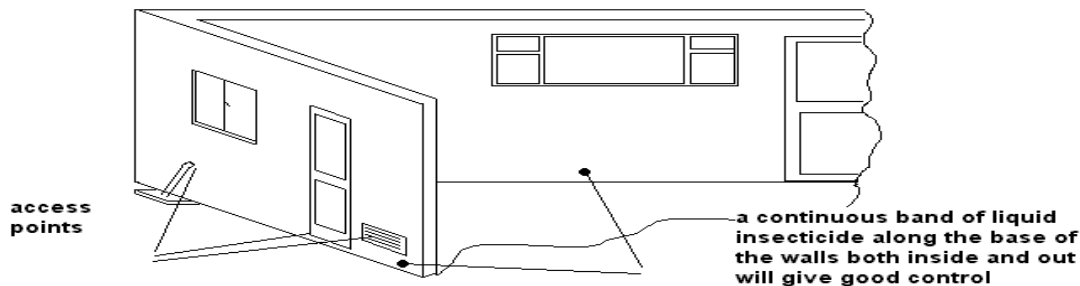
Garden ants *Lasius niger*

Black ants inside the house at certain times of the year can prove to be a real nuisance. Although not a threat to health they are very unwelcome visitors.

Black ants usually nest outside, particularly under paving which becomes very evident in mid summer as they excavate sand. Occasionally they find a suitable nest site indoors such as in cavity walls and beneath central heating fires and boilers.

Between mid July and September large numbers of queen ants are seen emerging from their nests and swarming. After the mating flight the queens find a place to over winter and make preparations for the coming spring.

Control of ants using a suitable liquid insecticide is probably the most effective and spraying the suggested areas regularly throughout the summer will stop them from gaining access. Insecticide products can be found at DIY stores, garden centres and some supermarkets.



It is important to remember whenever insecticides are used to read and follow carefully the instructions printed on the packaging.

Where ants are nesting indoors [evident when they swarm] the treatment needs to be carried out with great care. **Under no circumstances should you spray insecticide around any heating equipment. This should only be done in the presence of a properly qualified heating engineer.**