

Ants in Structures

ATCO
Richard Estrada

Oct 1, 2013 Least Toxic Pest Control Workshop hosted by the Town of Moraga & Parents for a Safer Environment.

Methods recommended:

- 1) **Modifications to the landscape or inside environment** such as removal of food sources or water after thoroughly inspecting the home in an effort to determine where and why the ants are coming inside.
- 2) **Soapy wash cloth or sponge** work for immediate control of ants. The soap also helps clean up the pheromone that they use to follow one another to the location with food/water.
- 3) **Terro ant baits** is our first choice. The liquid bait can either be added to an exterior bait container or is comes in a placement station for interior use.
- 4) **Bontanicals** such as Essentria IC2, made of essential plant oils that can be used as a contact insecticide and a repellent.

Effectiveness of Method, time and process required for each:

- 1) For long-term ant control, the emphasis should be on behavioral and landscape changes. Sanitization will assist in the eradication of ants. Full cooperation from occupants is a must. All foliage in contact with the structure should be pruned. Proper irrigation in the landscapes is key. Excessive water or extremely dry soil will tend to drive ants indoors.
- 2) Terro ant bait stations can take a little while before the ants disappear. The baits simply consist of water, sugar, and sodium borate. The bait is consumed by ants then the material is shared as they communicate with each other. It can take up to a week to see complete control.
- 3) I squirt bottle with soapy water (liquid dish washing detergent) will provide an immediate control measure. It is also a great alternative to over the counter sprays.
- 3) An application of Essentria can be very effective if applied properly. It is also best if the material is applied directly to the nest or ant trails. A broadcast application can tend to scatter ants. This product and others with the active ingredient of mint oil or cedar oil can be very useful to repel the ants from entering a structure if applied at and around the entry points from the exterior. The repellency effect can last from days, weeks, or to months depending on the product, the colonies, and whether they become resistant.

Cost for method for Ant Control:

- 1) The cost of service for the application of Terro as bait, varies on the number of application sites and the degree of infestation. We would most likely start the service at \$ 235.00 for an initial service. Most of the service is spent inspecting and making recommendations, then the placement of bait stations.

2) Application of Essentria is \$180.00. This service includes the placement of ant bait station on the interior for better control.

German Cockroach Control:

Effectiveness of Method, time and process required for each:

- 1) Our staff utilizes mechanical means, bait, borates and monitor traps in our eradication of *G. roaches*.
 - a. First step is to move as many items as one can out of the kitchen. This primarily pertains to dishes. As we are doing so our technicians will be removing any live roaches with a vacuum.
 - b. Move stove and refrigerator vacuuming roaches as we do so.
 - c. Apply borate dust in cracks and crevices. While we do so we will vacuum live cockroaches as they move out of the openings.
 - d. Once completed place containerized bait stations in areas where roaches are active. ATCO uses bait with the active ingredient fipronil.
 - e. Before we leave our technicians will place out monitor traps.
 - i. The traps used for monitoring have sticky glue on them. The roaches enter the trap and cannot leave. There are placed in areas where roaches harborage, under sink, behind refrigerator, and under the stove.

Cost for method for Roach Control:

service will start at \$ 180.00 and may be as high as \$ 450.00. Cost will depend on the level of infestation and the number of technicians needed to complete the job. Additional services will always be necessary in order to determine the level of control. It may also be necessary to refill fresh bait in the bait stations.

Endorsement of methods for controlling Ants and Roaches:

The use of these method and material is generally accepted by all IPM programs. This includes the Marin County IPM Program and the EcoWise IPM Certification Program.

Guarantees:

The use of all these methods, use of Terro ant bait and Essentria all come with a 30 day guarantee.

We provide no guarantees for the German Cockroach control service.



For service:
ATCO Pest Control
888-900-9697
www.atcopestcontrol.com