

# Carpenter Ants

## Identification

Carpenter ants are very large ants. They are black or reddish in color and up to 1/2" long.

## Locating the Nest

Carpenter ants carve nests in wood, including houses and cabins, trees, stumps, and firewood. They will nest in both sound wood and rotting wood. Although they do not eat wood like termites, they can cause damage to structures.

Where there is a nest in wood, you may see piles of sawdust or holes in the wood with ants coming in and out. You may be able to hear a rustling sound coming from the nest when placing your ear to the wood and tapping the surface.

There may be several 'satellite' nests associated with a 'parent' nest. It is important to destroy all nests.

## Prevention

Carpenter ant infestations can be prevented by reducing moisture around the home, such as reducing the depth of mulch around the perimeter of the home and

properly ventilating attics and sub-floor areas.

You should also trim tree branches and seal entry points to keep ants from coming indoors. Keep wood from coming in contact with bare earth to prevent decay, and remove damaged or decaying wood promptly.

Outdoors, firewood should be stored off the ground and several feet away from structures. Remove old logs, stumps, and other decaying wood from around the home.

## Control

Contact a qualified pest control operator if you discover a carpenter ant infestation.

## San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District

(650) 344 - 8592  
1351 Rollins Road  
Burlingame, CA 94010

Monday-Friday  
8a.m. to 4:30p.m.

[www.smcmvcd.org](http://www.smcmvcd.org)

