



PESTS POSE THREATS TO PEOPLE

Go to the science fiction section of any video store and you'll find horrifying creatures that will give you nightmares for weeks. And, often, they're insects. For as long as Hollywood has been making motion pictures, directors have used insects to illicit strong emotional reactions from audiences.

Of course, the real danger is the billions of dollars in food that insects destroy and the billions of dollars in property damage for which they're responsible. But, more terrifying than even the scariest horror movie is the impact pests can have on your health.

The housefly, for example, can carry more than 100 kinds of disease-causing organisms and may transmit more than 65 of them to humans and animals. Cockroaches can

transmit food poisoning, cholera, dysentery and typhoid. And the diseases carried by fleas have caused more human deaths than every war in human history combined!

That's where the pest control professionals at A-1 Pest Control come in. Like the knight in shining armor or the cowboy with the white hat in your favorite movie, we make our living by defeating the bad guys.

The professional pest management technicians at A-1 Pest

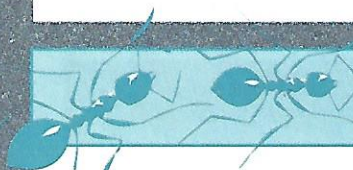
Control rely on training, expertise and sophisticated techniques to perform pest control in an environmentally responsible manner.

To learn more about the professional pest control services at A-1 Pest Control, call (417) 883-4611.

HAHN EXTERMINATORS, INC.



883-4611



Odorous House Ants

When you have a sudden invasion of your house by hundreds of small-to-medium sized (1/16"-1/8" long), blackish ants, especially if this begins just after a heavy rain, you may wonder where they all came from. These are very likely to be Odorous House Ants. Although they sometimes establish a nest in a wall void or similar location within a house, their main nest is usually outdoors, in the ground

near a shrub, or under a thick layer of mulch. Following their trails to where they disappear into a crack under a door, or through an opening to the outside, may help confirm that identification. If you crush one or two of these ants and they smell like the odor of rotting coconut, this will further support that they are probably Odorous House Ants. Their colonies vary greatly in size, with 300 to 300,000

workers, and may include many queens. These ants will feed on a variety of foods, but they generally prefer sweets. Both workers and reproductives may live for several years. Workers from different colonies are not hostile toward each other, and may routinely move along the same foraging trails.





Controlling these ants requires that you find their nest and treat it thoroughly with a properly labeled insecticide, if the situation allows that to be done. Unusual structural situations, inability to find the nest(s), or customer concerns may require the use of baits. Baiting for any pest is always very dependent on the pests' accepting and feeding adequately on your baits.

Stinging Pests May Be A Nuisance or Even A Health Threat

As the weather gets warmer, people spend more time outdoors. This is also the time of year when stinging pests are very busy looking for food and increasing their colony size. Although their presence and the threats they pose vary with your location, some of the most important stinging pests are baldfaced hornets, European hornets, paper wasps, yellowjackets, fire ants, and velvet-ants.

EUROPEAN HORNETS

These very large, 3/4" to 1" long, hornets are brown with yellow abdominal stripes and a pale face. They build large brownish-colored "paper carton" nests, sometimes as large as a basketball, which are often located in some protected area, like a wall void, an attic, or within the branches of a bush. When their nest is in an exposed location, such as hanging from a tree branch or from the eave of a building, it is usually covered by several layers of brownish "paper carton." Although mainly active in the daytime, workers (and males) do fly at night and

may be attracted to lights. They are generally beneficial insects, feeding mainly on other insects, many of which are pests of our plants. By late summer, a mature colony may number 200 - 400 workers (up to 1,000). Only fertilized queens overwinter. Workers are protective of their nest and give a painful sting, sometimes repeated stings, if they or their nest are disturbed. In general, they are much less aggressive, even near their nest, than are baldfaced hornets. Control of hornets or removal of their nests should be left to a properly trained and equipped professional.

BALDFACED HORNETS

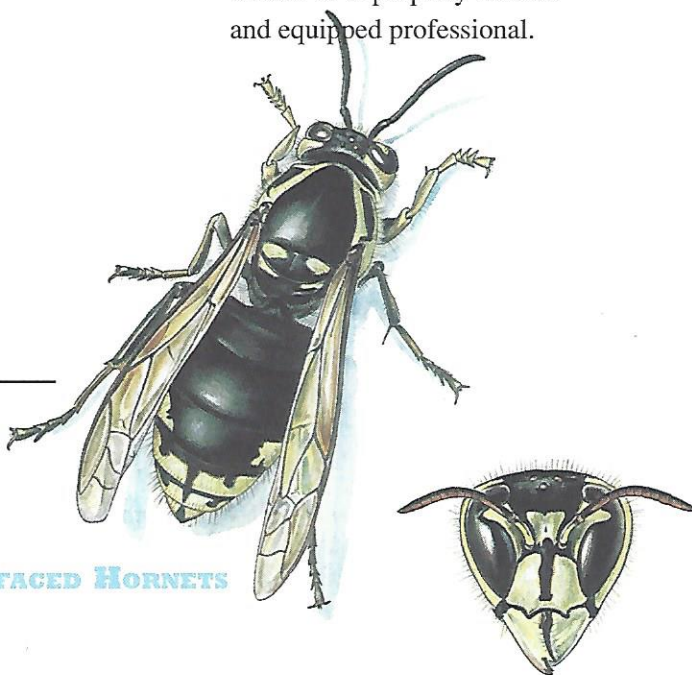
These large, 5/8" to 3/4" long, wasps are black with yellow markings which build large grayish-colored "paper carton" aerial nests, often as large as a basketball, which usually hang in an exposed location such as from a tree. Removal of their nests should be left to a properly trained and equipped professional.

EUROPEAN HORNET



Van Waters & Rogers Inc.
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BALDFACED HORNETS

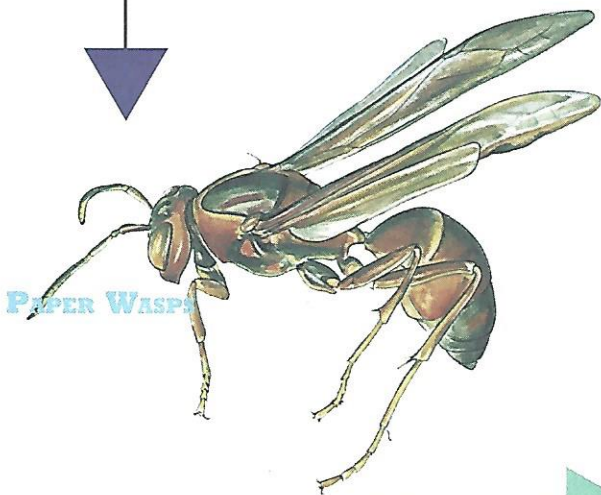


PAPER WASPS

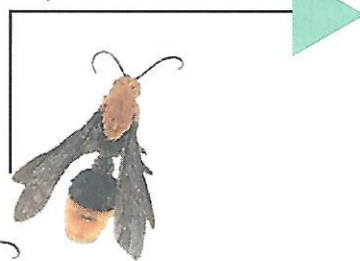
Paper wasps, in the Genus: *Polistes*, are 5/8" to 3/4" long, usually brownish with yellow markings. Some have red markings. They build a grayish-colored, single-layer, paperlike comb with cells opening downward. This nest is attached by a single long pedicel to a twig, tree branch, or horizontal surface, like an eave or window frame. They are beneficial insects, which are active in the daytime, feeding mainly on other insects, many of which are plant pests. A mature colony may number 100-250 workers. Workers are quite protective of their nest and will give a painful sting, often

repeated stings, if they or their nest are disturbed. Control of paper wasps or removal of their nests should be left to a properly trained and equipped professional.

A recently introduced species, the *Dominulus* Paper Wasp, has spread throughout most of the Eastern U.S. Some workers of this species may survive the winter in the southern states, and they often will re-use and expand the previous year's nest, which may get as large as a typical hornet's nest after several years.

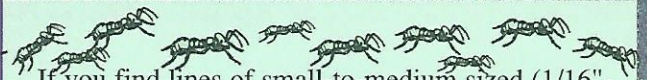


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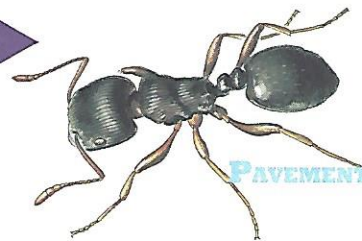


VELVET ANTS

Pavement Ants



If you find lines of small-to-medium sized (1/16"-1/8" long), blackish ants, trailing along water pipes or utility lines which pass through walls, especially from the outside or even through interior walls, they are very likely to be Pavement Ants. Their average colony contains 3,000 - 4,000 workers, and has several queens. Outside nests are usually located under the edge of a large stone or a sidewalk (thus, their common name). They may nest in wall voids, in insulation, under a floor, or in ground-level masonry walls. Foraging trails may be 30 feet or longer from a nest. These ants will feed on nearly anything, but often show a preference for meats or greasy foods. They are not usually aggressive toward humans, but they sometimes bite and have a very painful sting as well. Workers of this species of ants are intermediate hosts of two different poultry tapeworms. The ideal way to control these ants is to find their nest and treat it thoroughly with a properly labeled insecticide, if the situation allows that to be done. Unusual structural situations, inability to find the nest(s), or customer concerns may require the use of baits. Baiting for any pest is very dependent on the pests' accepting and feeding adequately on your baits.



PAVEMENT ANTS

VELVET ANTS

These are not true ants, but solitary wasps which parasitize other ground-nesting insects. The females are wingless and usually look very "fuzzy" because of their long, often bright red or orange setae. Females may run rapidly along the ground looking for their hosts' nests or hunting smaller insects for food. Males are usually winged and may fly low or hover over areas of sandy soil where females may be found searching for their hosts' nests. They may come into our

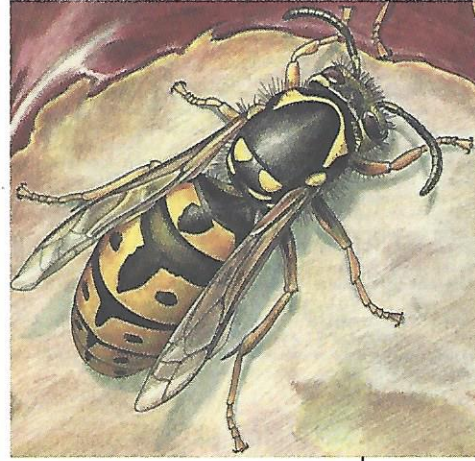
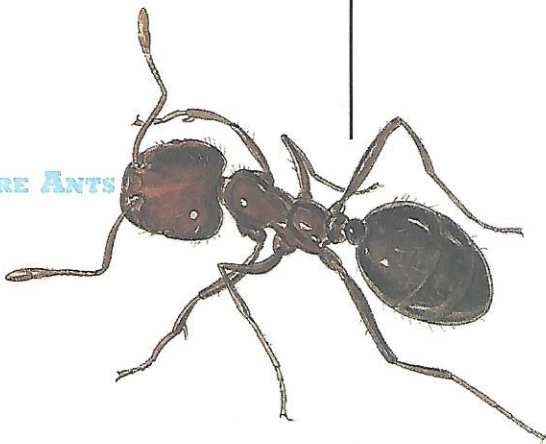
homes or work areas during warm weather. They are considered beneficial, but they should not be bothered or handled. The females have a stinger which is very large (often 1/4 the length of their whole body), and can deliver an extremely painful sting. Because of this they are sometimes called "cow-killers" or "mule-killers." Exclusion measures to keep them out of our homes are usually the only control measures needed.

FIRE ANTS

These ants get their common name from their very painful bites and stings. They are small (workers are 1/16" - 1/4" long) yellowish-red to black ants, all in the Genus: *Solenopsis*, which are distributed from Virginia to Florida, and from Georgia to California. Workers of most species are several different sizes. They usually nest in the ground, but sometimes part (or a whole colony) may be located within a structure, usually in wall voids near heat or moisture (such as near a chimney or a bath trap). The two most important species are the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA), *Solenopsis invicta* Buren, and the Southern Fire Ant (SFA), *Solenopsis xyloni* McCook.

Colonies of the RIFA may be as numerous as 30 to 100 per acre, with 80,000 to 250,000 ants per colony. They sometimes form multi-queen colonies which may be still larger. Mature queens may lay up to 1,500 eggs per day. Swarming may occur six to eight times per year. A typical RIFA colony mound is rounded, about 18" high, and about 24" across. Mounds have caused farm machinery to break, and farm animals have reportedly been killed by multiple stings (thousands) when they stepped into a RIFA mound. People usually develop a blister-like pustule at the site of a sting and true allergic reactions to fire ant stings can be life threatening.

FIRE ANTS



YELLOW JACKETS

Yellowjackets are 3/8" to 5/8" long, depending on the species, with their respective queens being about 25% longer. Most species are black with yellow stripes, but some include red markings, and some are black with white markings. These are day-active, beneficial, predatory insects. They build a paperlike nest containing several layers of cells. A mature nest may typically have 2,000-6,000 cells and 1,000-4,000 workers. Nests are sometimes built in open aerial spots, or within bushes, but most species build their nest in a cavity hollowed out below ground. Some workers act as guards at the entrances to below-ground nests. They

are very protective of their nest. Usually only fertilized queens live over the winter. Although yellowjackets are generally not likely to attack and sting humans, they can quickly become very aggressive if their nest is disturbed. After the new fertilized queens have gone into their overwintering sites, the remaining workers begin to seek sweets and garbage near places where humans are active outdoors, or around garbage cans. Workers can inflict a painful sting and may sting repeatedly. Yellowjacket control or nest removal should be left to properly trained and equipped professionals.