

## **FAST FACTS**

- There are more than 12,000 species of ants all over the world.
- An ant can lift 20 times its own body weight.
- When **foraging** ants leave a **pheromone** trail, so that they know where they've been.
- Some queen ants can live for many years and have *millions* of babies!
- Ants don't have ears. Ants "hear" by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet.
- Ants don't have lungs. They breathe through tiny holes all over their body.
- When ants fight, it is usually to the death!
- When the queen of the colony dies, the colony can only survive a few months.

## **General Information**

Although these ants can live inside, they get their name because they make their nests in or under cracks in pavement. They are typically found in the eastern half of the United States, California and Washington. Pavement ant colonies average 3,000 to 4,000 members and have several queens.

<b>Size:</b> 1/8"	<b>Common Name:</b> Pavement Ants
<b>Shape:</b> Segmented, Oval	<b>Kingdom:</b> Animalia
<b>Color:</b> Dark Brown to Black	<b>Phylum:</b> Arthropoda
<b>Legs:</b> 6	<b>Class:</b> Insecta
<b>Wings:</b> Varies	<b>Order:</b> Hymenoptera
<b>Antenna:</b> Yes	<b>Family:</b> Formicidae
	<b>Genus Species:</b> Tetramorium caespitum

## **Diet**

These ants will eat almost anything, including insects, grease, seeds, honeydew, honey, bread, meats, nuts and cheese.

## **Habitat**

This ant gets its name because it most commonly nests in soil next to and beneath slabs, sidewalks, patios, and driveways. Indoors, pavement ants nest under a building's foundation and within hollow foundation walls.

## **Impact**

Pavement ants do not pose a health threat, but they can contaminate food by leaving waste behind.

**See other side for suggestion on preventing this pest.**



# PAVEMENT ANT INFO SHEET

## **Prevention**

- \* Eliminate standing water. Pests, such as ants, mosquitoes and termites, are attracted to moisture.
- \* Keep tree branches and other plants cut back from the house. Sometimes pests use these branches to get into your home.
- \* Make sure that there are no cracks or little openings around the bottom of your house. Sometimes pests use these to get into your home.
- \* Make sure that firewood and building materials are not stored next to your home. Pests like to build nests in stacks of wood.

To learn more about this and other ants, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/ants.html>