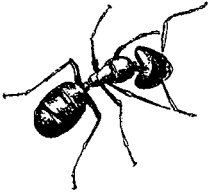


# WINTER CARPENTER ANT ACTIVITY FACT SHEET



## General Information

As you know Cooper Pest Control has received National recognition for development of a highly successful Carpenter Ant control program utilizing baits outside the home. This exterior approach, which is based on the concept that carpenter ants spend more time outside the structure than inside, has become the most effective method for controlling this difficult pest. The key to the success however is the use of baits as the primary means of control. The reason that baits are so successful in controlling the ants, is that once the ants feed on the bait they deliver it back to the nest and feed it to other members of the nest, killing the entire population. Thus by delivering baits to Carpenter Ants as they exit and enter the structure, the nest site inside the home is eliminated very quickly.

## Winter Carpenter Ant Activity Presents Challenges

Control of Carpenter Ants with baits is easily accomplished during the warm months (April – September) when Carpenter Ants are actively feeding to support colony growth and development. As the winter approaches, all egg production stops as the colony prepares for its winter dormancy (much like a bear does). While dormant, eggs are not being laid, young are not being raised, and wood is not being damaged. Occasionally, carpenter ants will become active during the winter months if the area where the nest is located becomes warm from the sun or household heating. If the ants become warm enough, some of them may exit the nest and be seen within the home. Baits that are available will kill any of the ants that eat the bait, however because the Colony is still dormant, the food resources are not shared with other members of the nest. As a result, in the winter the bait is only killing individual ants that consume rather than the entire nest, as it does in the warmer months. Chemical treatments are also not likely to be very effective as the metabolic rate of the ants is also greatly depressed during dormancy and thus the chemicals do not work as well as during the warmer months.

## Control Options During Winter Months (October – Early April)

Our recommendation is to wait until April arrives and the temperatures begin to warm, so that we can effectively bait the home and achieve control. If you are unable to tolerate the sporadic ant activity during the winter months then the home can be treated, however these treatments are often ineffective due to the fact the colony is still in a state of dormancy. Treatment Options include the following:

- Baits will be used inside the structure on a limited basis, where the ant activity is being observed. However, it must be realized that the results of this method may be inconsistent due to the fact that baits are not being shared with other members of the nest.
- If activity continues to persist, more bait applications can be made, or a switch to Traditional Pesticides can be attempted.
- If traditional pesticides are used to try and contact the ant nest, you must be prepared to leave the home for a period of 3-4 hours.

## Expectations of Winter Service

It is our hope that services performed for Carpenter Ant activity in your home, will stop ants from being seen in the home. However, due to their winter biology this may not always be achieved. We are confident however that we

can readily control the ant activity, once the warm temperatures arrive (daily high temperatures of approximately 65°F) and their winter dormancy comes to an end. We urge you to wait until spring to attempt control of these ants. However we assure you that if you cannot wait, we will make our best effort to bring you relief between now and then.