



SUBJECT: Got Ants in Your Pants - Pest Control

RECIPIENTS: All Schools

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We have produced a detailed Safety Sheet on dealing with different types of pest in schools – click [here](#) to view the more detailed information including links to additional resources. Below some basic guidance for the most common pests you're likely to come across and have to deal with in your schools:-

Ants and other live insects

If ants and other insects are found in your kitchen or food prep areas then you need to do something about it fast. Ant pathways in your premises - where ants will lay a trail of pheromone to a food source - are another sign that you have a problem. The chemical pheromone attracts other ants to find the food source.

How to deal with ant infestations

An obvious solution during heightened periods of infestation in July and August is to remove sources of attraction. Keep your kitchen clean, do not leave crumbs or food packaging around, ensure any food-containing rubbish is disposed of in tightly-sealed bags and containers away from your building. It is quite likely that, if there is no food source, the ant pathway will not be laid in the property.

Non pesticide solutions to try

You may want to try a general non-pesticide solution during this enhanced period of ant infestation by washing counter-tops and floors with equal parts vinegar and water in infected areas. Ants really hate vinegar, and you can make a cheap, easy pesticide just by mixing a 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water in a spray bottle. Spray it directly onto the ants to kill them, then wipe up the ants using a damp paper towel and discard them. It could work for you!

Bees

Remain mindful of how fragile an existence bees have; if the swarm is visible and/or accessible it may be worthwhile contacting a local bee keeper who may be willing to remove them from your property to avoid them being exterminated by professional pesticide contractors.

Rodents, stray dogs and wasps

In the first instance, for larger infestations of insects and rodents you will need to contact your local **District Council's Environmental Health Department**, also for further advice on removal of insects, rodents, wasps and bees. Stray dogs can be reported to your local dog warden and/or your local District Council.

To view more safety sheets on a number of different subjects please click [here](#).

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:
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