

# Pavement Ants



## *Tetramorium caespitum*

### OVERVIEW:

Pavement ants get their name because they make their nests in or under cracks in pavement. However, they can also infest structures. Pavement ant colonies are moderately large, averaging around 4,000 workers with several queens.

### HABITS:

These ants will eat almost anything, including other insects, seeds, honeydew, honey, bread, meats, nuts and cheese. In buildings, they are most likely to be found in ground-level masonry walls of foundations, but they will occasionally nest in walls, insulation and under floors, and near heat sources in the winter. They enter buildings through cracks in the slab and walls, as well as through natural openings. Outside, these ants typically nest under stones, pavement cracks and next to buildings.

### THREATS:

These ants do not pose a public health risk, but they can contaminate food and should be avoided.

### PREVENTION:

- Keep kitchens and other dining areas clean and free of crumbs and spills.
- Eliminate standing water. Moisture attracts many pests, including pavement ants.
- Keep tree branches and other plants cut back from the house. Sometimes pavement ants use these branches to get into your home.
- Seal any cracks or openings around the exterior of your house, especially where utility pipes and lines enter.
- Make sure that firewood and building materials are not stored next to your home.
- If you suspect you have a pavement ant infestation, contact a licensed pest professional.

### DID YOU KNOW? Pavement ants...

- will eat almost anything, but prefer meats and greasy foods.
- are not usually aggressive, but they can bite and sting.
- forage in trails, for distances of up to 30 feet.
- are known to climb up masonry walls and emerge into false ceilings, and then come down into occupied areas.

For more information, visit [PESTWORLD.org](http://PESTWORLD.org)



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## QUICK STATS:



**Color:**

Dark brown to blackish



**Shape:**

Segmented; oval



**Size:**

$\frac{1}{16}$  –  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long



**Region:**

Found throughout the eastern half of the U.S., California and Washington

