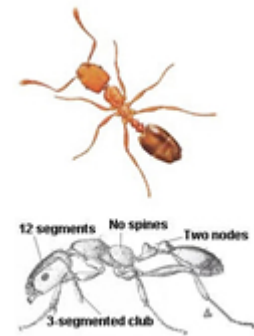


# Pharaoh ant fact sheet

## Identifying characteristics

- Workers are all the same size, 1/16 inch long
- Yellow or honey-coloured to orange
- Petiole with two nodes
- Thorax uneven in shape when viewed from side with no spines
- Twelve segmented antennae with three-segmented club



## Behaviour

- Feed on both living and dead insects
- Inside, feed on sweets, fats, and proteins
- Travel in set trails along carpets, counter tops, cabinets, floors, and baseboards
- Found in places with moisture
- May use electrical wires and plumbing pipes to travel from room to room
- Colonies very mobile; workers, along with larvae, pupae, and even a few queens, may move to new locations if disturbed or if colony becomes too large

## Nest type and size

- Nest in household structures such as wall and cabinet voids, behind baseboards, behind refrigerator insulation, inside hollow curtain rods, or in the folds of sheets, clothes, or paper
- Outdoors nest in debris or cracks and crevices
- Colonies with up to 300,000 workers with multiple queens

## Dealing with pharaoh ants

An extensive baiting program, combined with exclusion and sanitary practices, is the best way to manage pharaoh ant populations. Insecticide sprays will only make infestations worse by dispersing colonies to new locations. Be sure to distinguish pharaoh ants from thief ants which are similar looking but not as easy to control with baits.