

## What you should do

### Treatment

There are a wide range of treatments available:

- Residents who want to treat their whole properties themselves have a choice of a spray, bait and granular insecticides:
  - **X-it Ant** can be sprayed over hard surfaces such as asphalt or concrete driveways, paths and courtyards
  - **Xstinguish** needs to be applied over the whole property
  - **Exterm-an-ant, Advion Gel, No Ants Gel Bait, and No Ants Liquid Ant Bait** are better suited for interior use or spot treatment
  - **Biforce**, and **No Ants Ant Sand** are granular insecticides that have a residual effect. They can be used on lawns, in gardens, in compost heaps, on pot plants and over areas of long grass or dense shrubs. They can also be used as a barrier treatment to prevent re-invasion.
- Pest contractors who are Approved Handlers can apply products with a residual effect. This will be more expensive than baiting but it provides greater certainty of effective long-term control (6–12 months). Products include:
  - Residual Surface sprays: **BiffAnt, Arilon and Recruit**
  - Cavity treatments: **Dust2Dust**.
- Further information on these products is on <http://argentineants.landcareresearch.co.nz/> in the section on Control.
- Spraying foraging ants with fly spray or tipping boiling water on them will have little effect on the large numbers of ants foraging elsewhere or on the larvae and pupae in the underground nests.

### Baiting with Xstinguish

- Xstinguish has been traditionally used by Nelson and Tasman residents because of its availability and cost. When correctly used, it can provide reasonably effective control but re-invasion can occur quite quickly if boundaries are not treated with a residual insecticide.
- Council encourages residents to bait in Spring time (late October to early December).
- To be effective, the bait must be applied to all areas where nests are located and is dependent on ants taking the bait back to the nest to the queens, the workers, the pupae and the larvae.
- Xstinguish is sold in 325 gm cartridges (normal and large sections)

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and 100 gm tubes (small sections). It can be purchased from Alpha Environmental (03 544 4365), FlyBusters/Antiants (0800 837 070), Pest Management and Training Services (03 544 52740), and PGG Wrightson (03 543 8590).

- Order bait in advance.
- Further information is available in the Tasman District Council Xstinguish Baiting Notes.

### Products used by pest contractors

- Pest contractors have access to a much wider range of products.
- Most pest contractors have been trained and registered as Approved Handlers to manage the potential risk posed by these materials.
- A comprehensive programme has been developed by Key Industries for the use of their Biff Ant programme, which uses three products, Biff Ant, Biforce and Dust2Dust.
- **Biffant** is a residual insecticide based on a widely – used synthetic pyrethroid that has been developed to provide effective control of ants.
- **Biforce** is an sand-based insecticide for areas where a spray may not penetrate (bark, long grass, dense foliage).
- **Dust2Dust** is a very fine insecticide dust for use in walls and ceiling cavities.
- Further information on these products and on certified applicators can be obtained from Pest Management and Training Services (03 544 5274).
- Other contractors may use different products. Effective treatment will be costly. Residents should seek more than one quotation and ask for a treatment guarantee

### Precautions to take before the baiting season

- Securely store food that is favoured by the ants.
- Put pet food bowls in a tray of water to prevent access by the ants.
- Clean kitchen benches and other surfaces by wiping with lemon juice, soapy water or diluted eucalyptus or tea tree oil to discourage ants.
- Trim trees and plants near your house to reduce ant access to roof, windows or plumbing, and block any obvious entry points.

For further information, call Tasman District Council:

**Phone 03 543 8400 or visit [www.tasman.govt.nz](http://www.tasman.govt.nz)**

One of the world's  
most invasive insects

# Argentine & Darwin's Ants



These ants are a major pest and a  
threat to our outdoor lifestyle.  
Stop the spread of invasive ants.

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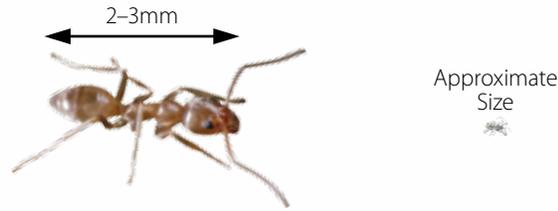


## Why they're a problem

- These ants multiply very quickly.
- They have a huge appetite and utilise any food source they can find.
- They can quickly over-run your property and make it almost impossible to enjoy your outdoor areas.
- They are also a serious indoor pest. They can get into your food sources, including screw-top jars, microwaves and fridges.
- Argentine ants can bite but they are not poisonous.
- They can eliminate other types of ants and destroy beneficial insects and earthworms.
- They can kill baby birds in nests.
- These ants will farm aphids and scale insects, increasing their numbers on your plants.
- If left unchecked, they could become a serious threat to viticulture, flowers, avocado, tomato and citrus crops. They are a particular threat to organic growers and gardeners.



## How to recognise the ants



**Colour** Light to dark-honey brown (most common household ants are black).

**Size** Argentine 2.5–3mm long, Darwin's 2mm long.

**Movements** Travel in multiple lines along the edge of paths and driveways, and up walls and trees.

### Where you're likely to find them

#### Outside:

- Under or in pot plants.
- Rockeries, paving and path edges.
- Compost and under bark.
- In bodywork of caravans or campervans.
- Under debris like bricks, stones or boards - anything that may offer them protection and shelter.

#### Inside:

- If these ants have moved inside your house they will be very obvious from their trails.
- They usually nest outside and only travel inside to forage.

### Difference

- Darwin's ants produce a very strong smell when squashed.
- Argentine ants produce very little smell when squashed.
- Argentine ants are much more aggressive than Darwin's ants.

## What you should do

### Identification

If you think you have them on your property, collect some ants in a small jar or pottle with a tight-fitting lid. (Try placing a small amount of peanut butter and half a teaspoon of sugar in the jar and leave out for two hours). Take the specimen jar to Tasman District Council, 189 Queen Street Richmond, or Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson.

Make sure the jar is well sealed and labelled with your name, property address and contact number.

### Containment

Ants can spread quickly if aided by humans. Make sure you don't help them spread:

- If you are moving pot plants, compost or other garden matter, check thoroughly for ants.
- Check underneath caravans, campervans etc (particularly if they have been sitting in the same spot for a while) before taking them off your property.
- If you are moving house, check all your pot plants, vehicles and any other outdoor fixtures you are taking with you to ensure you are not transporting ants.

### Pest Management Strategy

These two ants have been included in the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy as Containment Pests. The occupiers of ant-infested land are required to control them because of their pest potential and the ease with which they can spread.

Tasman District Council is the management agency for implementation of the Strategy within Nelson City and Tasman District.

