



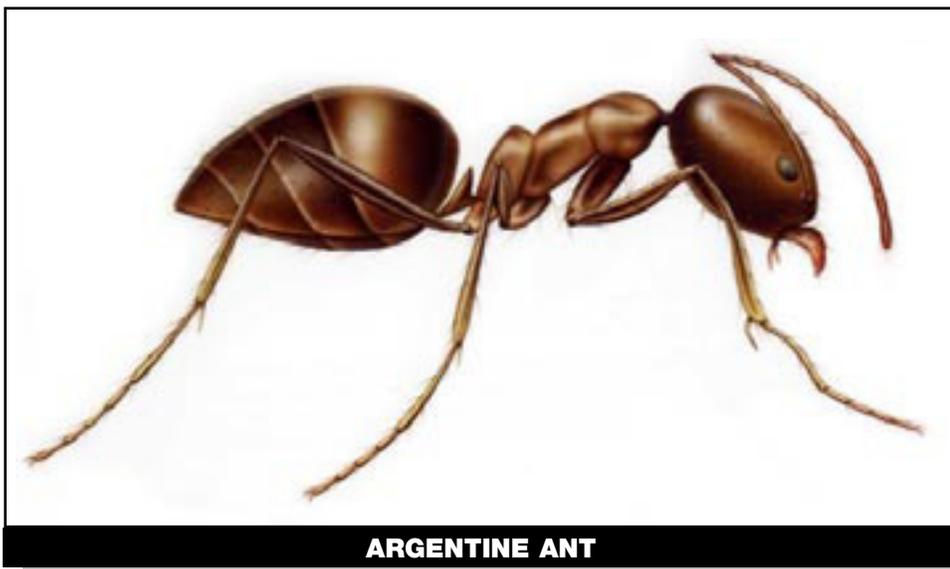
# Consumer Bulletin

Pride In Excellence Since 1921

WesternExterminator.com

Number 7

## Warm Weather is Here, and so are the Ants!



**ARGENTINE ANT**

### CHARACTERISTICS

Argentine Ants are native to South America, and were first detected in the US in 1891 in New Orleans. They were then transported to other parts of the country, mainly through potted plants.

This is the most common urban ant we deal with in Western Exterminator Company's service area.

The Argentine Ant is found throughout California, Arizona and Nevada, trailing along sidewalks and entering buildings.

A medium size ant is about 1/8 inch long and enters homes for food and/or shelter.

Argentine ants are aggressive and will take over the territories of other ant species. Because Argentine Ants from Northern and Southern California do not show aggressive behavior toward each other, it's been said that "California is one large Argentine Ant colony".

When Argentine Ants find food in your home, they will "tell" other colonies of Argentine Ants about the treat placed out for their enjoyment. Before long, several nests of ants are feeding in your home.

### WHAT WESTERN CAN DO FOR YOU

Our control measures focus on giving complete protection to you and your family. Western's first goal is to determine the source of the problem and identify the species. Once the problem has been identified our Technician implements an effective strategy to reduce or eliminate the infestation. There are several pest solutions available depending on the type of ant and where the activity is found. Some solutions include, baiting the trails or the nest, dusting interior walls, applying liquid material to kill the ant on contact, or applying a material that the worker ants will trail through and bring back to the colony, infecting the entire nest. We also look for and report to you conditions that could attract ants to your property.



**Ants instinctively find spilled food and can contaminate foods in unsealed packages.**



**1-800-WEST-EXT (1-800-937-8398)**

**The Final Word in Pest Control!®**

WINGED ANT OR A TERMITE?



**ANTS**  
Elbowed antenna  
Front wings longer  
Narrow waist

**Antenna:** Ants have an elbowed antenna, where the termite's antenna protrudes straight out and are like strings of small beads.

**Wings:** Both have two pairs of wings. On ants, the front pair of wings is longer than the hind pair. For termites, both sets of wings are equal in length.

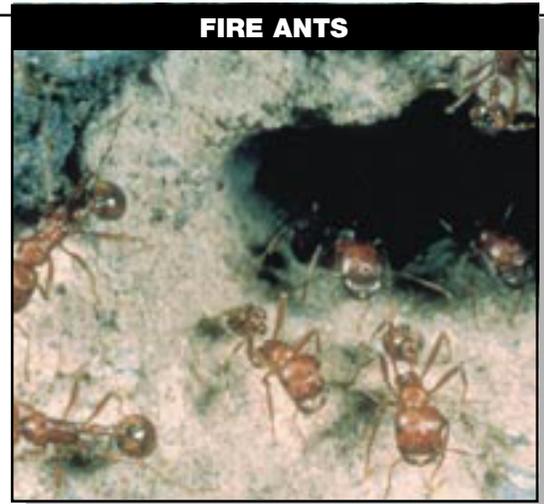
**Waist:** Under a microscope, termites have a broad waist (to the eye they have no waist). Ants have a distinct narrow waist

**TERMITES**  
Straight antenna  
Both wings equal  
Broad waist



THE RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT

The Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) is a native of South America and has spread throughout the Southwest in recent years, differing in a number of ways from our native fire ants. RIFA colonies make dome shaped mounds, and colony members are extremely aggressive, attacking anything that disturbs them. Due to the shape of their mounds and the explosive way they leave the mound when agitated, the charging ants resemble a volcano spilling over with lava. The RIFA first bites by firmly grasping the skin with its jaws and then arches it's back as it inserts its rear-end stinger into the skin in a circular motion, inflicting an average of 7-8 stings infected with its poisonous venom. If you suspect RIFA infestation, keep clear of the mound, and contact the professionals. To receive a brochure about RIFA, contact us at: [Littleman@west-ext.com](mailto:Littleman@west-ext.com)



I keep my house squeaky clean yet I see ants inside.

Ants come inside buildings looking for food and shelter. Even a small crumb of food is a big meal for them.

Any disease concerns with these ants?

Not directly. Ants could walk through a contaminated substance, pick up microorganisms and transfer them to something you eat, but this is unlikely to occur.

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