

## ANTS



Ants are a common problem. The first ones you see—called *scouts*—come in the home a few at a time. Then long lines of ants come in, following the scent trail the scouts leave. It can be alarming to see so many ants, but they do not spread disease, and are usually not hard to get rid of.

Ants come in to find food and water. In the winter when it rains, ants sometimes come in to find a dry place.

**Do not try to control ants by spraying pesticides. If thorough cleaning doesn't solve your ant problem, place an enclosed ant bait station in a place away from children and pets.**

### Getting rid of ants

- **Kill scouts as soon as you see them** so that they can't signal more ants to come.
- **Wipe up ants and their trails with soapy water.**
- **Clean up any food crumbs or spills that might attract ants.**
- If you can see where the ants are getting in, **use petroleum jelly or a piece of tape to block holes** until your building manager can seal them.

### Keeping ants away

Check the **Keeping Pests Out of Your Home** card for ways to make sure your home is not a good place for ants.

- Keep pet dishes in a wide, shallow container filled with soapy water.
- Let your manager know about any cracks or holes ants are using to get into your home so that they can seal them.



For more information on managing pests, go to  
[www.ourwaterourworld.org/FactSheets.aspx](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org/FactSheets.aspx)



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