

## **They're Not Infesting; They're Sharing!**

The reaction to insect infestations can be unusual and humorous. Here is a somewhat typical phone conversation.

"Hello, this is the Ohio Pest Control Association, can I help you?"

"Do you get rid of bugs?"

"Yes, we have members who do that. What kind of bug do you have?"

"I don't know, but they are everywhere, and I want them out NOW!".

"OK, can you tell me what they look like?"

"Sure, some are small or large, and they are either brown or black, sort of."

"Do they have wings or shell on their backs?"

"Yes. I think they fly, maybe. Either way there are millions of them. Can you get rid of them?"

Sound familiar? Normally during the spring the "millions" of bugs people see are termites, carpenter ants, or pavement ants. Most people are quite familiar with termites, and to some extent with carpenter ants, but many have never heard of pavement ants.

As the name suggests, pavement ants set up housekeeping in or under paved areas. They may be found in homes with slab foundations, as they will over winter in or under foundations. As soon as the weather warms, the fertile females, which developed in late summer or early fall of the previous year, start swarming in an attempt to expand the colonies. These ants are larger than the workers, which are all sterile females. The only males in a colony are drones.

The ants are attracted to sunlight, which explains why large numbers of live and dead ants may be found around windows. In buildings with fluorescent lighting it's sometimes thought that ants are coming out of the lights. In reality they are flying up to the lights and finally dropping down on the people.

Don't panic, after all, insects are a normal part of our environment. They're not infesting, they're sharing! Most homeowners who find ants and other pests crawling through their houses have a rude response to that attitude, but what are homeowners to do when faced with an ant invasion? Cleaning house won't help--much. The cleanest homes can have a problem with ants. Sanitation is important, but it is not the only factor. Moisture as well as locale can be factors as well.

Homeowners may be able to deal with minor infestations of non-destructive ants by applying retail aerosol, liquid, or powdered products. Those who decide to treat the problem themselves must be sure to read the label directions carefully and properly ventilate the house.

The safest and most effective solution to a serious pest problem is the services of an experienced, licensed pest management professional. To locate a qualified pest control operator in your area contact the Ohio Pest Control Association at 937-222-1024, visit the OPCA web site at [www.ohiopca.com](http://www.ohiopca.com), or send e-mail to [info@ohiopca.com](mailto:info@ohiopca.com)

The Ohio Pest Control Association is the only trade association dedicated solely to the pest control industry in the state of Ohio. With approximately 200 member companies in communities throughout the state, OPCA is The Voice of the Pest Control Industry in Ohio.