

# SmartSolutions for Ants

A guide to ant management on-structure, off-structure and inside



 **BASF**

The Chemical Company

# The Problem with Ants

Ants are the number one reason homeowners call a pest management professional. Given this reality, ants take on a particular importance not only as a frequently encountered pest control challenge, but, quite often, as the foundation of your ongoing relationship with a customer.

Unfortunately, due to their complex social structures, foraging habits, nomadic nesting tendencies and more, ants can be quite difficult to control. The cost of failure, at best, will be callbacks, wasted time and resources. At worst, it will be the loss of a potential, profitable, long-term customer.

The SmartSolution for Ants from BASF Pest Control Solutions was created to help you control ant problems the first time you're called, establish longstanding customer relationships and build a foundation for future business. It combines Termidor® termiticide/insecticide with complementary ant control products and Prescription Treatment® IPM techniques that exploit unique ant behavior and biology.

This guide will explore the unique challenges involved in modern ant control and introduce you to the unique products you need to overcome them. It will also give you the guidance you need to understand why, how and when you should use these products.

# The SmartSolution for Ants

# The #1 Nuisance Pest can be Much More than a Nuisance

Ants account for more new customer calls than any other pest. What's not so good is that ants also account for more retreatment calls from current customers than any other pest.

This suggests that existing ant control solutions quite simply aren't cutting it. Callbacks can prove costly on a number of fronts, including:

- Aggravated customers
- Damage to your reputation
- Lost customer confidence/satisfaction
- Lost future business
- Frustrated technicians
- Wasted time, labor and resources

Not to mention the potential for actual structural damage for which some ant species are known.

## Special Challenges from Ants

Complex social colonies and unique behaviors set ants distinctly apart from most other perimeter pests. They are active foragers, which means they are likely to invade homes looking for food and other resources. When they find it, they recruit nest mates, often in large numbers.

Trying to keep these ants out with repellent chemical barriers often proves futile, as ants are particularly adept at circumnavigating them. Killing individual workers is equally futile. Some colonies have thousands or even millions of ants, so they just keep on coming.

Assuming that you've found the heart of an ant problem by locating a nest can be equally misguided. Finding and treating individual nests may control certain species, however, some ants have supercolonies or satellite nests that can infest multiple properties.

Finally, the wide range of ant species can exhibit variable feeding preferences, foraging patterns, nesting choices and colony structures, requiring different treatment strategies and products to choose from.



# Controlling Ants Inside and Out

The SmartSolution for Ants includes carefully selected products that address the special challenges of ant control. These products, delivered in “Layers of Treatment” outside and inside, expand the transfer zone and take advantage of distinct ant biology and social behaviors.

## Layer 1: Exterior On Structure

### Fight ants with Termidor® America’s #1 GPC product\*

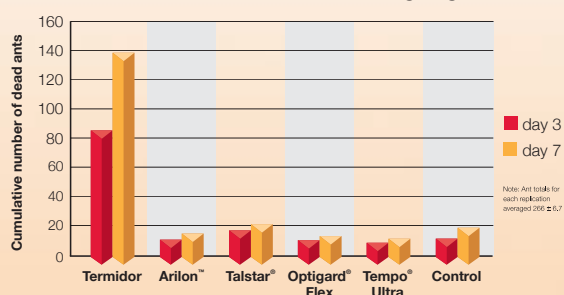
**Termidor** termiticide/insecticide is the core product of the SmartSolution for Ants and provides the most effective outdoor low-dose control of ants available. A **Termidor** treatment creates a treated zone of nonrepellent protection around the home. This is the key to **Termidor’s** unique Transfer Effect.™ Ants passing through the treated area pick up **Termidor** on their bodies and transfer the active ingredient to nest mates through routine social contact. The Transfer Effect enables **Termidor** to control ants that never make direct contact with a treated surface. They need only to contact other ants that have been exposed to **Termidor**.

Ants interact with each other as a means of communication, grooming and feeding, which makes the concept of transfer so important to ant control.

**Termidor** stands alone in terms of its ability to control ants through its Transfer Effect. In a study by Choe and Rust (UC Riverside), ants exposed to **Termidor** “readily transferred the insecticide to other individuals in the colony, resulting in high mortality... The other insecticides were not transferred and ants exhibited mortality rates similar to that of the controls.”

On its own, **Termidor** significantly reduces nuisance ant callbacks. As part of the SmartSolution for Ants, it becomes a powerful “first layer” of control, providing an incomparably effective base for the other important layers.

**Cumulative number of dead ants in a horizontal transfer study by Dr. Rust**



\*SPC, LLC 2008.

Treatment

Research conducted in 2008

## Layer 2: Exterior Off Structure

### Reduce ant pressure around the structure and stop colonies from invading

Treatments away from the structure where ants are observed trailing or near resource sites (including trees, planting beds) reduce the ant pressure around the structure and help prevent invading colonies from setting up close to the house. The Alpine® WSG/Advance® Ant Bait combination is ideal.

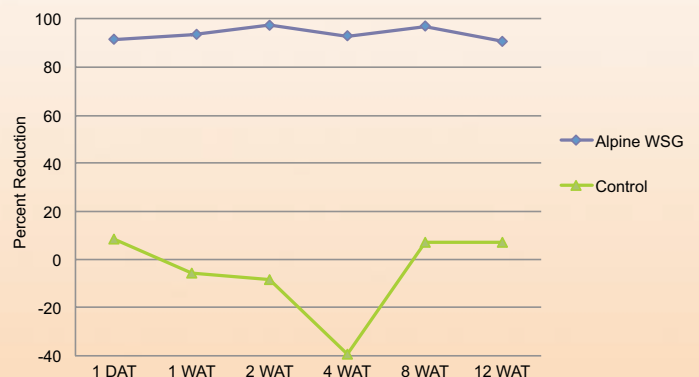
#### ■ Alpine WSG

Alpine WSG combines a versatile label that allows treatment of ant trails or even curative broadcast applications to lawns, with its nonrepellent, undetectable transferability to kill ants where they are found. This is an excellent complement to both **Termidor** on structure treatments and Advance Ant Bait applications.

#### ■ Advance Ant Baits

Advance Ant Baits take advantage of the practice of social food sharing common among ants. Ants recruit their nest mates to help collect food and carry it back to the nest and then distribute it throughout the colony. Advance Ant Baits are designed to be extremely attractive for fast acceptance by ants and are available in several formulations to attract a wide variant of ants. Baiting does not interfere with the effects of a **Termidor** treatment, and in fact, using both treatments together has been shown to lead to more reliable results.

### Odorous House Ant Population Reduction







## Layer 3: Inside Structure

### Target problem areas with nonrepellent products without risk of “locking them in”

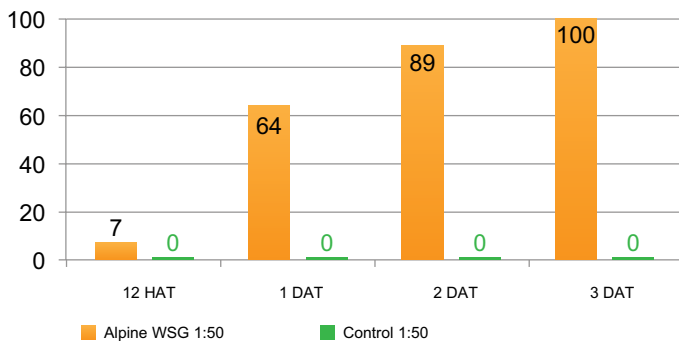
Because there are so many species of ants and so many treatment situations inside a structure, a PMP should have a broad choice of indoor control products at hand to treat them. The SmartSolution for Ants includes a flexible range of nonrepellent indoor ant control products and application methods that complement **Termidor®** without the risk of “budding” or “lock-in” that can occur with repellents.

#### ■ Alpine® products\*

Alpine products utilize advanced nonrepellent technology to eliminate ant populations. All Alpine products are labeled for use indoors and outdoors. Alpine WSG is an odorless, non-staining formulation that can be applied indoors as a spot or crack and crevice treatment where ants may be foraging. The fact that it contains the reduced risk active ingredient dinotefuran will be a comfort to your customers.

#### Average Percent Mortality of Recipients (Transfer Effect)

Black Carpenter Ants, *C. pennsylvanicus*, with Alpine WSG (0.1%)\*



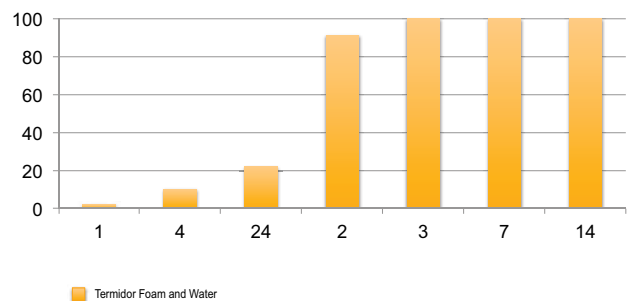
\*The label states 0.2% for carpenter ants Dr. Buczkowski Purdue 2013

\*Where Alpine is not yet registered, Phantom® products offer an excellent treatment option indoors.

#### ■ Termidor Foam

**Termidor Foam** is the preferred void treatment product for ants. Featuring the same Transfer Effect™ as other **Termidor** products, this formulation is designed to treat voids and ant galleries wherever ants enter, hide or harbor, both indoors and outdoors.

Carpenter Ants: Percent Mortality at Time



Conclusion: Termidor Foam termiticide/insecticide provided good residual (24 hours after treatment) efficacy against carpenter ants. Laurel D. Hansen, Biology Department MS 3180, Spokane Falls Community College, 3410 W. Fort Wright Drive, Spokane Falls, WA 99224, Report Number: 806.

#### ■ Advance® Ant Baits

(See description on previous page.)


# Three Layers of Ant Control

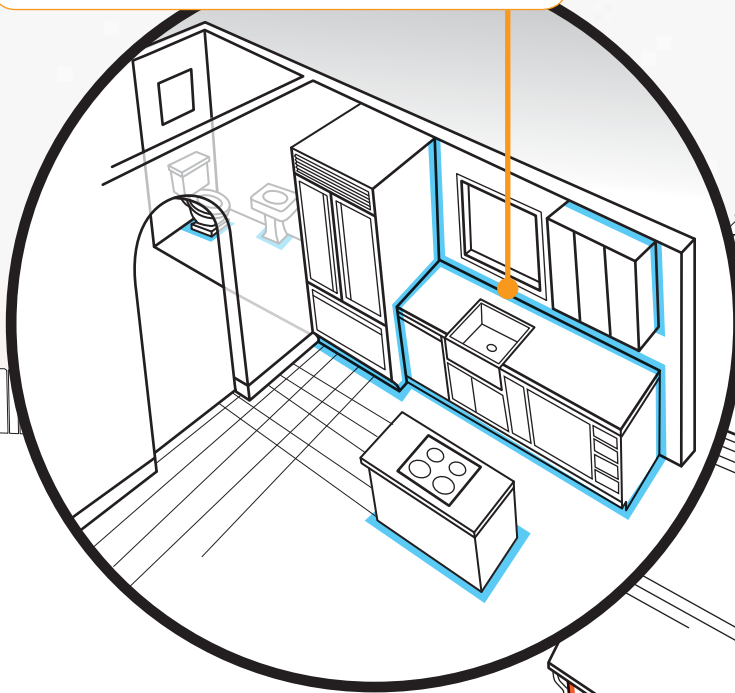
**Alpine® WSG** can be used for spot and/or crack and crevice applications in places such as around doors, window frames, under sinks, around pipes and other areas where ants trail or nest.

**Termidor® Foam** can be used in voids where ants enter, hide or harbor.

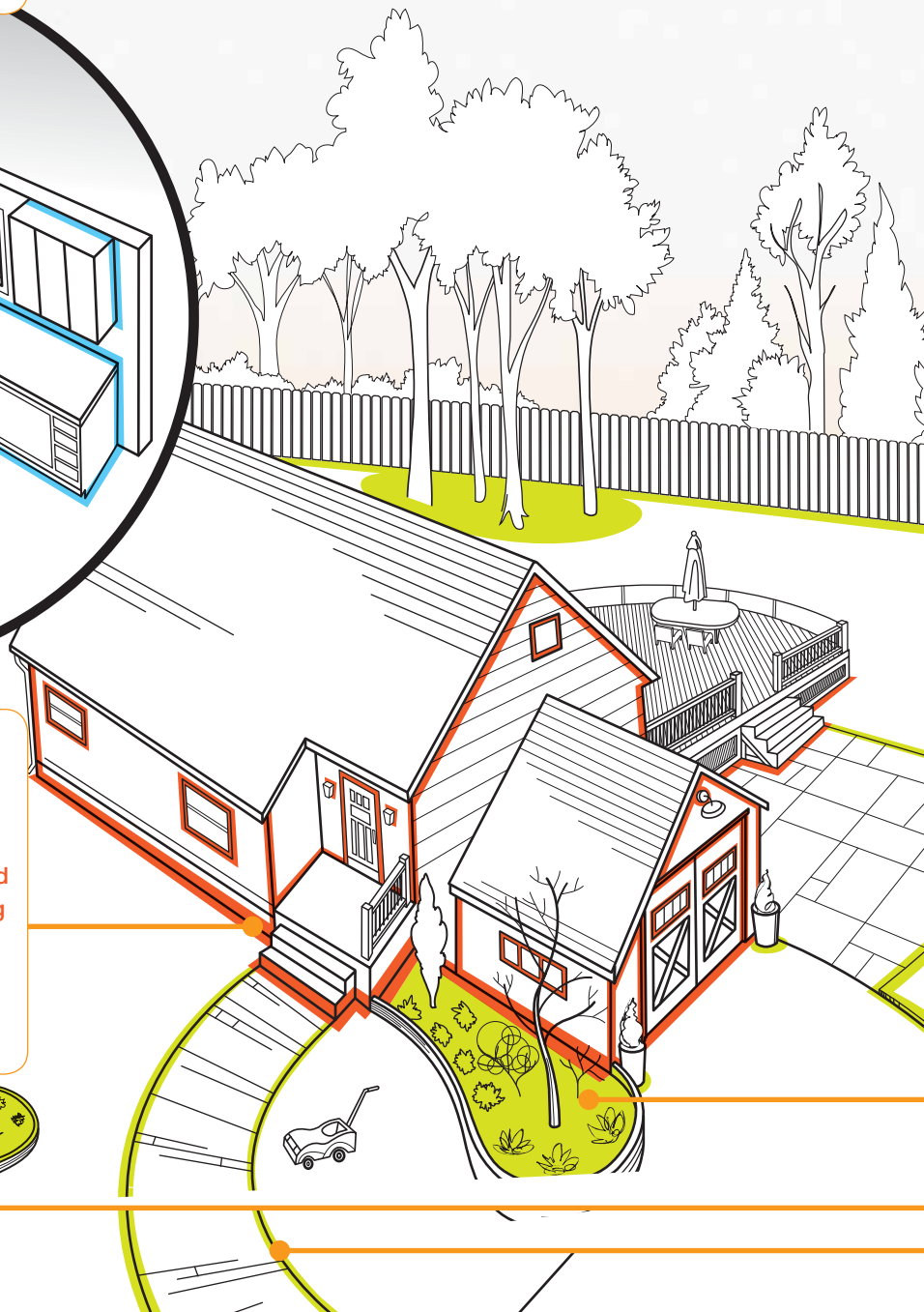
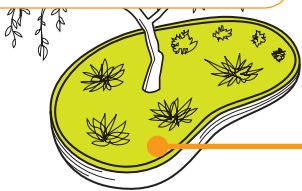
 **Layer 1: Exterior On the Structure**

 **Layer 2: Exterior Off from the Structure**

 **Layer 3: Inside the Structure**



**Termidor** can be applied along the foundation exterior perimeter to an area one foot up and one foot out from where the ground meets the foundation. It can also be applied where ants enter the structure, where they trail or crawl and hide, or where their nests are found. Treat using low pressure coarse banded surface spray up to 18 inches in width around doors, windows, vents, pipes or any other exterior openings. See product label for complete directions.



## Inspection

Inspection provides the information needed to make good decisions when it comes time for treatment.

At a minimum you should:

- Identify locations of ant activity
- Identify ant species
- Identify nest locations if possible
- Identify conditions conducive to ant activity

As a part of an overall ant IPM program, integrating several layers of treatment can be useful in attacking ants in ways that address symptoms, control the source and help to prevent future reinfestations. An example of the SmartSolution for Ants three-layered approach may include:

### Layer 1: Exterior On the Structure

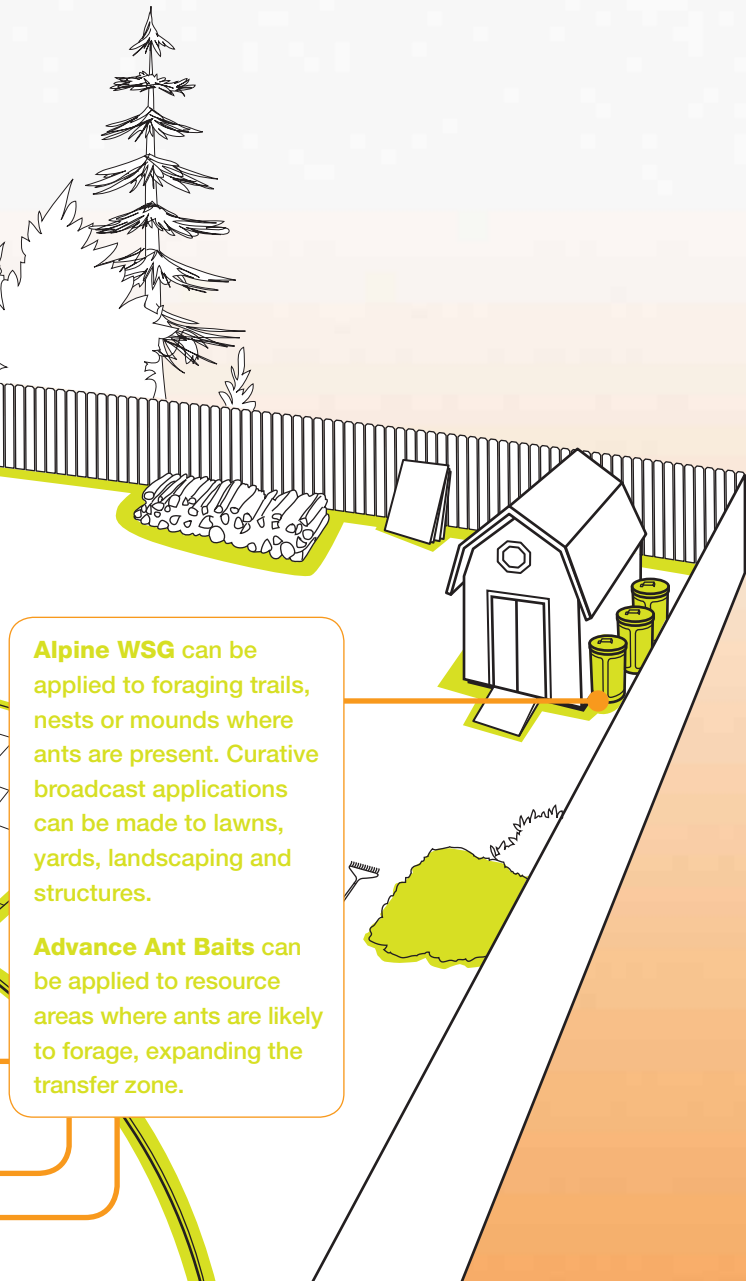
Create a **Termidor**<sup>®</sup> termiticide/insecticide treatment zone on and around the structure. Following the label directions, spray along the foundation exterior perimeter to an area one foot up and one foot out from where the ground meets the foundation. **Termidor** can also be applied to areas where ants enter the structure, where they trail or crawl and hide, or where their nests are found. Spray up to 18 inches in width around doors, windows, vents, pipes or any other exterior openings and/or with a Crack & Crevice<sup>®</sup> injection tip into foundation cracks or drilled holes where ants could enter the structure. Be especially careful to treat the joint where exterior siding meets the cement block or brick foundation. Treat areas where any wires (electrical, cable or telephone) enter the house. **Termidor** exterior applications can be applied two times per year. We suggest that the applications be made when ants are active and pest pressure is evident.

### Layer 2: Exterior Off from the Structure

Garbage areas, planting beds, trees and overgrown and cluttered areas are great examples of resource sites likely to foster the growth of ant populations. These areas can be dealt with through baiting with Advance<sup>®</sup> Granular Ant Baits and/or the use of Alpine WSG to expand the transfer zone. Ants are known to prefer crawling along structural guidelines when trailing, so in addition to treating the suspected nesting areas, focus on edges of sidewalks and driveways, garden borders, fences and other areas where ants may trail.

### Layer 3: Inside the Structure

Ants indoors can be dealt with by crack and crevice, spot or void treatments of nonrepellent products. Choose the best formulation based on where the ants are trailing or suspected to be nesting — for instance: Prescription Treatment<sup>®</sup> brand Alpine<sup>®</sup> Pressurized Insecticide for crack and crevice, **Termidor Foam** for voids and Alpine WSG for spot treatments. These products won't trap ants indoors, or interfere with the movement through the transfer zone created outside by **Termidor**. If Advance Ant Baits are used indoors, be sure to place baits near ant trails in areas where increased ant activity from recruitment won't be a problem for the customer. Attics, basements and crawlspaces are good indoor placement choices for baiting.

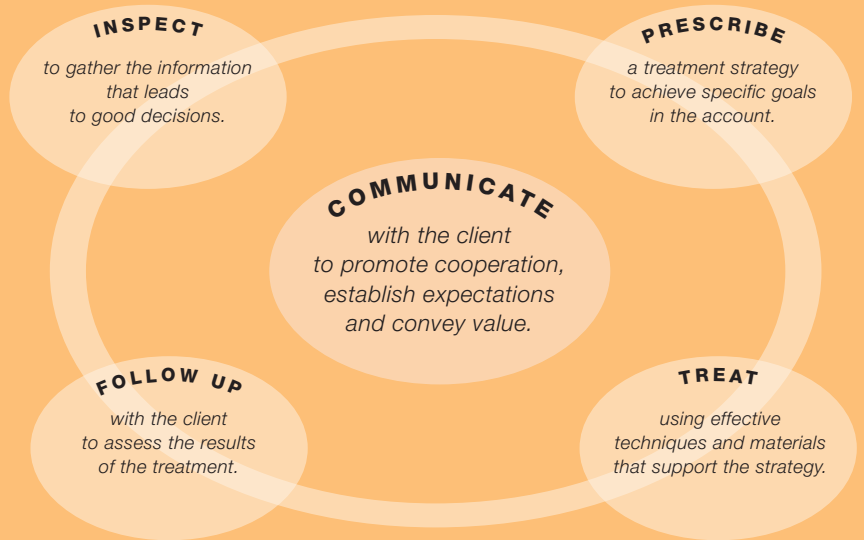


**Alpine WSG** can be applied to foraging trails, nests or mounds where ants are present. Curative broadcast applications can be made to lawns, yards, landscaping and structures.

**Advance Ant Baits** can be applied to resource areas where ants are likely to forage, expanding the transfer zone.

# The Prescription Treatment® Approach

BASF Pest Control Solutions believes a sound Integrated Pest Management strategy is the cornerstone of successful pest control and good stewardship. Our Prescription Treatment approach includes the core IPM practices you should always employ in conjunction with any BASF SmartSolution.



Always read and follow label directions.

[pestcontrol.basf.us](http://pestcontrol.basf.us)

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