



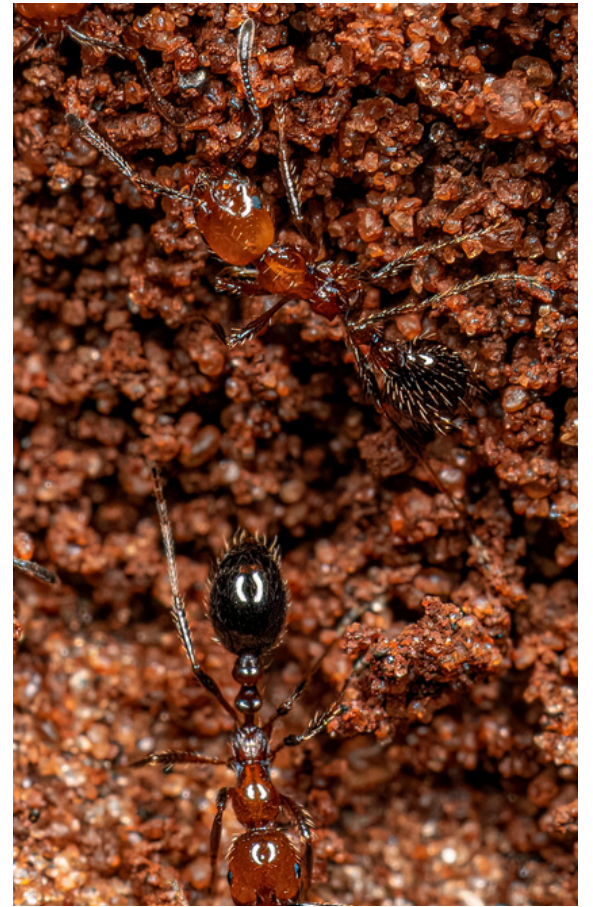
PREVENTION & CONTROL CHECKLIST

FIRE ANTS

FIRE ANT PREVENTION & CONTROL CHECKLIST

WHAT ARE FIRE ANTS?

Fire ants are aggressive pests known for their painful stings and destructive nature. The most common species in the U.S. is the Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). These ants build large mounds and can quickly overtake lawns and properties.



SIGNS OF A FIRE ANT INFESTATION

Use this checklist to assess your property for potential fire ant problems:

- ☐ Visible Mounds: Look for dome-shaped mounds in lawns, gardens, and open spaces.
- ☐ Swarming Activity: Fire ants swarm, especially after rain or during mating seasons.
- ☐ Painful Stings: If you or pets experience sudden burning stings, fire ants may be nearby.
- ☐ Aggressive Behavior: Fire ants attack in groups when disturbed.
- ☐ Soil Disturbances: Mounds appear near driveways, sidewalks, electrical boxes, and tree bases.
- ☐ Damage to Plants: Fire ants feed on seeds, roots, and small plants, causing damage to crops and lawns.

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HOW TO KEEP FIRE ANTS AWAY

Preventing fire ants is the best way to avoid painful stings and property damage. Follow these steps to keep them off your property:

- ☐ **Eliminate Food & Water Sources:**
 - Keep outdoor areas clean and free of food debris.
 - Store pet food indoors or in sealed containers.
 - Repair leaky faucets and remove standing water.
- ☐ **Seal Entry Points:**
 - Inspect your home's foundation for cracks and seal them.
 - Use weatherstripping around doors and windows.
 - Check utility entry points (pipes, vents) and seal gaps.
- ☐ **Maintain Landscaping:**
 - Keep grass cut short and trim back bushes.
 - Remove deadwood, leaf piles, and excess mulch where ants may nest.
 - Avoid overwatering, as damp soil attracts fire ants.
- ☐ **Use Fire Ant Baits & Barriers:**
 - Place fire ant baits in high-risk areas to prevent colonies.
 - Apply insecticide barriers around foundations and perimeters.
 - Consider natural deterrents like diatomaceous earth or cinnamon.

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HOW TO GET RID OF FIRE ANTS

If you already have a fire ant infestation, here's what to do:

☐ **Spot Treatment for Small Infestations:**

- Use granular bait to target active colonies.
- Pour boiling water over mounds as a natural method.
- Apply insecticide sprays or dusts labeled for fire ants.

☐ **Large-Scale Fire Ant Control:**

- Use a two-step method: broadcast bait followed by direct mound treatment.
- Treat your yard during dry, warm weather for best results.
- Repeat treatments as needed to prevent reinfestation.

☐ **Professional Pest Control:**

- If fire ants persist, contact a licensed pest control service.
- A professional inspection ensures hidden colonies are identified and removed.
- Experts use long-term solutions, including barrier applications and eco-friendly treatments.

Fire ants spread FAST—don't wait until they take over your yard! Protect your home and family by scheduling a **FREE** professional inspection today.

Call Stride Pest Control Now!



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