

## **Ghost ant (*Tapinoma melanocephalum*).**

### Description

Ghost ants have almost transparent legs and abdomen with a dark brown head and thorax. Approx 1 to 2 mm in size smaller than a pharaoh. Workers 10 weeks, queen up a year life span.



### Where and how do they live?

Ghost ants are usually found indoors. They need warm temperatures to breed and like warm, centrally heated buildings.

### Why are they a problem?

Ghost ants typically live in heated blocks of domestic flats. Ecoli, salmonella.

### What can I do to prevent ghost ants in my home?

The smallest scraps of food or liquid are attractive to pests looking for food. To avoid attracting ants into your home:

- Wash kitchen surfaces before and after preparing food and clean up any left-over mess
- Sweep and mop all food and liquids from the floor regularly
- Keep food stored in air tight containers
- Empty bins regularly

### How we can help

Resist the temptation to try and treat these ants yourself with insecticide sprays.

Treatment for this insect is normally undertaken on a block control basis as treatment for individual flats or rooms will be not be effective. Please let the council have access to your property so that the infestation can be professional dealt with.

### Contact

If you are a council tenant and you are having a problem with ghost ants please contact your area housing office or call 0800 952 4444.

To report and infestation or request a pest control officer to visit your property call 0800 952 4444.

### Home owner?

If you are private tenant or owner occupier you should contact your landlord. Pest Control will make a charge for block treatments of this insect. Any programme of treatments will need to be authorised by the owner or the landlord.

