

Detecting Singapore Ants

It is very easy to detect Singapore Ants in and around your home. Simply follow the steps below:

Step 1: Smear a *thin* coat of peanut butter on one end of a small wooden stick such as a disposable chopstick. You can also use 'temikl' (coconut frond midrib). (NOTE: a thick coat of peanut butter is not better.)

Step 2: Place the sticks near trails of ants in and around your house. Check the sticks after about 30 minutes.

Step 3: Pick up sticks with ants – carefully or they will fall off – and put them into a sealable plastic bag (zip-loc bag).

Step 4: Examine the ants (you may need to use a magnifying glass):

- Are they slow-moving?
- Do they form trails?
- Are they reddish brown?
- Is the abdomen (tail end) darker than the head?
- Are there two sizes of ants?
- Are they small – less than 1/8 inch long?

Step 5: If you can answer YES to all of these questions, then you MAY have Singapore Ants. Write your name, telephone number, today's date, and your State and Hamlet on a piece of paper – *use a pencil, **not** a pen* – and insert the paper into the bag with the ants. (You can also write this information on the outside of the bag using a permanent marker.) Seal the plastic bag and put into your freezer overnight to kill the ants. *Please do not transport living ants.*



Step 6: Bring the bag(s) with ants to Joel Miles at the Bureau of Agriculture Quarantine Office at Malakal. If you do not know where this office is located, please call 488-2504 to get directions. An expert will look at your ants under a microscope to properly identify them. Once they have been identified, BOA staff will contact you and advise you how to control the ants.

YOU CAN HELP by looking out for Singapore Ants and reporting their presence to the Bureau of Agriculture, and by helping to control their infestations. Singapore ants are easily transported by people. You can help by being very careful when transporting anything that might contain ants, such as pot-plants, food, and household items.

Controlling Singapore Ants

It is very important that you seek expert advice if you believe you have an infestation of Singapore Ants. The BOA staff should be called to confirm the infestation, record it, and advise you on how to deal with it. If you believe you have Singapore Ants, please call the Bureau of Agriculture at 488-2504.