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## The Homeowner's Role in Carpenter Ant Control

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The success or failure of your carpenter ant control program depends largely on the level of cooperation provided by the homeowner. This is particularly true when it comes to maintaining an ant-free account in the months and years following successful treatment. To reduce the chances of re-infestation, the following is recommended:

- Trim all the trees and bushes so no branches touch or come close to any part of the treated structure.
- Correct any moisture problems in the house such as leaking roofs, chimney flashing, or plumbing in addition to poorly ventilated attics or crawl spaces.
- Consider replacing all rotted or water damaged wooden parts of the structure and eliminate all wood/soil contact.
- Remove dead stumps that are on the property or within 50 feet of the treated structure if practical.
- Repair all damaged trees on the property. Sick or dying trees are prime harborage sites for carpenter ants.
- Store firewood up off of the ground and well away from the treated structure.
- Bring only firewood that will be used quickly into the structure. Examine it carefully and remove infested logs.
- Consider non-organic mulches near the house in areas heavily infested with carpenter ants.

In addition, it may take some time to gain control of a carpenter ant problem. It's not uncommon for wandering carpenter ants to reenter structures after treatment. If large numbers are seen or if damage is apparent, however it may be necessary to investigate and/or retreat all or part of the building.

If you have any questions or suspicions it is important to contact our office so that your problem may be rectified.