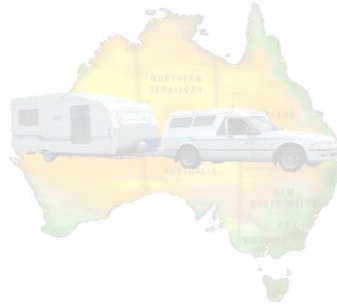


# ANT CONTROL

The Wandering Tews



During our years of travel we have been infested by ants on a couple of occasions, and believe me when this happens they are extremely difficult to get rid of. On these occasions the main reason for infestation was due to my failing to adopt our control methods.

Following are some ideas we have become aware of during our travels.

1. Some travellers have purchased special feet pads for the leg stands that are designed to fill with water, and Ants don't swim. We have not used this method due to the cost of the feet and inconvenience of carrying them, this method also does not stop the ants from entering via other points.
2. We have for a long time been using Talcum Powder sprinkled around all points touching the ground, ants won't walk on the powder. It is not necessary to sprinkle around tyres as ants don't walk on rubber, I have noticed over the years that this does seem to be the case. When we fitted a full annexe to our caravan we found that sprinkling powder was not fully effective as there was now many areas of the annexe touching the ground that were extremely impractical to sprinkle around.
3. Another deterrent, that we now use, is to make a paste by boiling two cups of sugar with one cup of water and two tablespoons of borax. Boil for three minutes, we found that two minutes and the paste is thinner. Place some in tin or plastic lids and place in the path of ants, or several around the caravan. They are attracted by the sweet sticky contents and can seldom get past it, they then take the paste back to the nest and die, other ants eat them and also die eventually destroying the entire nest. The containers are then easily cleaned for further use when moving. This paste is very similar to 'ANT RID' purchased at most shops and much cheaper. We have found that ants in some areas, especially the very small ones are not attracted to the paste so we revert back to the powder.

4. We have found that on occasions the Ant Rid formula we use does not seem to attract ants, especially in Queensland. We have since come up with another formula using Peanut butter and Borax consisting of :
  - a. 2 heaped teaspoons of Borax,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup peanut butter, mixed well until borax is dissolved.
  - b. We purchased some small décor salad dressing or sauce containers with lids, this is to prevent birds and the like getting at it. Small holes were drilled around the sides near the bottom of the containers for the ants to climb in, a small amount of the paste was placed in the bottle with the lid placed on top. The container was then placed where the ants were and it was unbelievable how they took to it.
  - c. These containers are then also ideal for placing in cupboards for inside infestations.