

Ant Communication

Over time, colonies grow to include hundreds, thousands, or even millions of ants. To work together, these ants have to communicate with one another.

The main way ants communicate is through their sense of smell. An ant's antennae help it smell chemicals, called **pheromones**, that an ant's body makes. Ants release pheromones into the air or on the ground.

Some ants use pheromones to share information. When one ant finds food, such as a dead insect, it leaves a pheromone trail on the ground back to its nest. Other ants from the nest can then follow the trail to help collect the food.



Ants gather information by touching and smelling things—including one another—with their sensitive antennae.