



German Wasp and Common Wasp



Disturbing a nest can be dangerous, particularly in a confined area such as a loft space. If the nest is near a window or a door, or the insects regularly find their way into your house, it is best to get a qualified pest control officer to deal with the problem

Details of how we can help are below

Facts about Wasps

Wasps can be regarded as beneficial insects. As the nests develop during the spring and early summer the workers collect insect larvae and thereby help control garden insect pests. It is the ability of wasps to cause painful stings that concerns most people and unlike bees, wasp can sting several times.

A single wasp begins construction on a nest that may eventually house more than 500 adults. The queen lays four or five eggs in a small comb protected by several layers of papery material. She forages for wood fibres that, chewed and matted with saliva, will form new layers for her nest. The process is deliberate and precise: By the end of the summer, a large nest contains males, female workers, and a number of specially nurtured new queens, which leave the nest to begin their own nests come springtime. With the onset of severe weather the nests die out. The Queens, which are larger than the workers, over winter in warmer undisturbed places like garden sheds, buildings, under loose bark and bird boxes. The Queens emerge in the spring and build their nests again and then start laying eggs. Four to six weeks after the eggs are laid, the first generation of wasps emerge and the life cycle begins again.



How we can Help

The Council's Pest Control Officers can provide a treatment for Wasps.

We can use a variety of chemicals and application equipment to treat the nest. You will need to tell us:

- Where are the wasps going in and out?
- How high up is the nest?
- Is there more than one place they are using?
- Can we get to where the wasps are without you being home?

Usually we can successfully treat the nest from outside your home. On most occasions we do not remove the nest. Old nests are not reused.

Services from Us.

The Borough Council's Pest Control Service can assist with the treatment for wasps, we will apply a residual insecticide, usually in the form of a dust.

- To request our help please call 01782 742590 during office hours or see our website.
- Our current charges are detailed on our website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk, or available by calling our Customer Services Team on 01782 742590
- Some landlords may pay this charge on your behalf if you live in rented accommodation.
- Our waiting times are typically 1-5 working days.

Our Treatment Guarantee

Pest control treatments do not always have immediate effect. The Pest Control Service will use sufficient quantities of appropriate materials to ensure that the insect problem is successfully resolved. If you notify us within one calendar month, that the treatment has not been successful, we will make a further visit (a 're-treatment'), at no additional cost

TREATING A WASPS NEST YOURSELF (Not Recommended)

Safety

You can use either a wasp nest destroyer aerosol or a powder. Make sure that the chemical you choose says that it is suitable to kill a wasps nest. Normal 'fly sprays' often have no effect on the nest. Ensure you have a place to retreat to quickly, where the wasps cannot follow, if the treatment does not go to plan -for instance indoors with the doors and window shut.

Treatment should be made at dusk or very early morning when most wasps will be docile and in the nest. Try to pick a cool dry day. The insecticide should be used at the entry to the nest or the hole where the wasps are seen going in and out.

Follow the safety instructions on the container. After carrying out the treatment, leave the nest straight away. Do not wait to see the effect of the treatment, as wasps will react aggressively on mass.

Although wasps are generally disliked because of their sting, most species will only sting when the wasp is aroused or frightened.

As the weather gets colder in the autumn, all the wasps die except the new queens, which fly away to find hibernation sites. **The old nests are not re-used the following year.** There is usually no need to remove a wasp nest following treatment.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE STUNG

- Some people (about 3 in 100) are strongly allergic to bites and stings and can be very ill. Most people who have an allergic reaction have been stung before without an allergic reaction. Some people never have another allergic reaction again after their first. This is why they are almost impossible to predict.
- **Remove the sting if it has been left**
 - Wash the area with soap and water.
 - Put a cold flannel on the area.
 - Raise the part of the body that has been stung to prevent swelling.
 - Use a spray or cream containing local anaesthetic or antihistamine on the area to stop the itching and swelling.
 - Take painkillers, such as paracetamol if it is very painful.
 - Do not scratch the area as it may become infected.
- **If you experience swelling or itching anywhere else on the body immediately after being stung, wheezing, headache, feeling sick, fast heart rate, feeling faint, difficulty swallowing, or a swollen face or mouth, you may need emergency treatment. Call 999 for an ambulance immediately as you may be having a generalised allergic reaction and this can be fatal.**
- Although itchy and sometimes painful they are rarely dangerous and need only some antihistamine or local anaesthetic cream from your pharmacist. Ask your pharmacist for advice. Bites can become infected by scratching.
- The redness and swelling are usually due to the allergy rather than an infection. Antibiotics are rarely needed in the first 48 hours.

- **Call your doctor if the symptoms will not go away or if you are stung in the mouth, around the throat or receive multiple stings.**
- Contact NHS 111 if you require further advice about aftercare.

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