

Wasps

What do they look like?

All wasps found in Britain - with the exception of hornets - have black and yellow stripes on their bodies and two pairs of wings.

Where do they live?

Springtime is when the queen leaves her hibernating quarters to find nesting sites. These include holes in the ground, hollow trees, sheds and loft spaces.

Once the nest area has been found, the queen builds it with a paper material – called wasp paper – created by chewing on wood mixed with saliva.

The nest will reach its maximum size in September or early autumn. It can house up to 10,000 workers by that point.

A nest made in previous years is not used again.

What do they eat?

Wasps feed on garden insects and household pests. They can also feed on dustbin waste and animal carcasses.

Can wasps harm us?

Unlike bees, wasps can sting many times. Wasps' stings are not normally serious yet they can be painful. Occasionally, wasp stings can cause severe reactions.

How do you treat and control wasps?

Nests can be left untreated as they are generally located in areas away from human activity.

Insecticides: Products can be purchased from hardware stores and garden centres. Firstly, you must locate the entrance of the nest. This can be done by following the flight pattern of a returning wasp. Treatment must be carried out either early in the morning or late in the evening when there is the least activity. To achieve the best results apply the insecticide to the entrance of the nest. You can also apply it directly on to the nest if it is visible.

It is important that you stay away from the nest for at least 24 hours after treatment, and consider the risks carefully.

Wasps are known to become extremely aggressive when their nest is threatened. This can result in multiple stings if you are not wearing the correct protective clothing.

Pesticide treatments - always follow the instructions stated on the label.



Knowsley Pest Control Service:

We can provide a service, however a charge will be incurred.

Commercial pest control companies are listed in the Yellow Pages and Thompson's Local Directory.