

Fleas



Knowsley Council Pest Control Service

Fleas

Human fleas are very rare in the UK largely due to improved hygiene and better standards of living. Most fleas found in the home are cat or dog fleas. Fleas cannot transmit any serious illness to humans, however, flea bites can cause severe irritation.

Infestations can spread quickly as a female can lay up to 50 eggs a day. Most eggs will fall off your pet and hatch wherever they fall. Flea eggs can lay dormant for long periods, but when an adult flea hatches it will seek food, often biting around the ankle area.

Signs to look for around your home

Fleas are between 1 and 4mm long and reddish brown in colour. They have powerful, long hind legs and flattened shape.

- Flea bites: swollen, itching spots with a single puncture point.
- Scratching pets with small black flecks on their coats.

How to prevent fleas

- Ensure all pets in your home are regularly treated for fleas
- Consult a vet about the best treatment for your animal
- Regular and thorough vacuuming of all living areas and furniture, particularly pet bedding and sleeping areas
- Wash pet bedding in a hot wash regularly

Treating and controlling fleas

Specialist insecticide for the treatment of fleas can be bought from vets, supermarkets or DIY stores. Make sure you read the instructions before use.

- Treat pets before starting treatment in the home
- Spray all floors, carpets and underneath furniture. Don't spray anything that comes into direct contact with the skin and start spraying from the furthest point in the room
- Don't vacuum for at least 10 days after treatment, to allow the insecticide to work on any unhatched eggs

Further help and guidance

Knowsley Council Pest Control Service offers competitive rates for the treatment of fleas in domestic and commercial properties.

For further information ring **0151 443 2400** or visit www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/bins-waste-and-environment/book-pest-control-appointment

