

Wasps

An informative guide for residents...



Although similar in size to bees, wasps are distinctive in their appearance because of their narrow waist and bright yellow and black banding. Depending upon their species they are usually 1-2cm long. Wasps are aggressive when disturbed or frightened and it is not advisable to try treat large nests or infestations yourself.

Wasps live in nests that are typically found in roof spaces, airbricks, cavity wall, gardens sheds, trees and even in rockeries and flowerbeds. The nest is usually constructed from chewed bark and dried timber mixed with saliva and is a light grey/beige colour with a papery appearance.

If undisturbed and built in an unrestricted space, the nest can measure up to 90–120cm in circumference towards the end of the summer months. A nests this size would contain between 5,000- 10,000 individual wasps.

New nests are formed each year by queen wasps that have overwintered. Depending on the weather, nests can be found in late spring/early summer.

Can wasps cause harm?

Wasps are aggressive when disturbed and will sting. This is painful and may cause redness and/or swelling but a sting is not normally serious, unless you are stung around the face, mouth, throat or tongue or suffer an allergic reaction to stings (known as anaphylactic shock). In these cases you should get immediate medical attention, as severe anaphylactic shock can be fatal.

I have found a “dead” nest. What should I do?

Wasps never re-use an old nest, so if you are certain that there is no activity it can simply be re-moved and disposed of. Any nest found during the winter will be “dead” and can be safely remove.

Control measures

The most usual application of treatment for wasps is an insecticidal dust to the nest, around and into the entrance. Liquid surface sprays can also be used.

For control of adult wasps, space sprays can be used indoors or surface sprays can be applied in localised areas.

Happy to help

We are available to offer advice or to deal with your pest problem.



Swift, confidential and professional service.

All our staff are RSPH level 2 qualified and are members of Basis Prompt, the Professional Pest Controllers Register with more than 50 years experience.



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