

Wasps

Pest control facts – Wasps



German Wasp



Common Wasp

There are two types of wasp commonly found in the UK:

- the [Common Wasp](#)
- the [German Wasp](#)

The queens hibernate during the winter, in buildings or under the bark of trees.

In spring the queens look for nesting sites like:

- a hole in the ground
- a hollow tree
- spaces within the eaves of a building
- lofts
- attics
- garden sheds

The queen will build her nest with a papery material that she makes by chewing small pieces of wood mixed with saliva.

In the nest she will raise a few workers and these will start to enlarge the nest and help to rear the next generation of wasps.

Nest construction starts in earnest in June and will usually reach its maximum in size in September.

Worker wasps will look for food up to 400 meters from the nest.

Workers feed mainly on sugary materials such as nectar.

The size of wasp colonies will vary from year to year, but at its maximum nests may contain between 5 – 10,000 wasps.

In the Autumn, the young queens mate and leave the nest to hibernate.

The rest of the nest dies out and the nest is never used again.

Depending upon the location of the wasp nest, it may not be necessary to destroy a wasp nest. If they can be left undisturbed, wasps will often not become a pest and can be left alone.

Wasp stings



Individuals react differently to being stung by wasps; some are hardly affected, others suffer considerable pain and swelling.

A few people are seriously allergic to wasp stings and in some cases it can result in sudden death due to [anaphylactic shock](#).

The pain of the wasp sting is caused by a toxic fluid containing a complex protein which is injected through the needle like sting as it penetrates the victim.

[NHS advice on insect stings](#)

Treatment we provide

Our Pest Control officers will:

- Survey the premises and locate the wasp nest
- Apply an insecticide to the nest or nest entrance

Insecticides are used to cover the entrance to the nest so that returning wasps will carry it into the heart of the nest.

Within a few hours all wasps should be dead.

Council Pest Control officers will only remove treated wasp nests where it is reasonable to do so.

Where **wasp** nests are externally accessible we may waive the necessity for a responsible adult to be present at the time of treatment. The location of the nest must be made clear at the time of booking.

Wasp or Bee?



Honey bee

[Honey bees](#) are frequently mistaken for wasp. **We do not offer a treatment service for bees**, so it is important that you correctly identify the species of insect before booking. If a pest control officer attends to treat for wasps but bees are identified, advice will be given and you will be refunded the initial treatment service charge; however a call out fee will be charged..