Wasps How to control them



Common Wasp (Worker)



Why control them?

There are several species of wasp. Some are solitary, others are social and build large nests.

By far the most abundant are the common wasp and the german wasp, both of which have the ability to nest underground, in trees or in cavities, garden sheds and roof spaces etc.

Although wasps can be beneficial in the garden by killing many garden pests, they are widely feared for their ability to sting which can be very painful and, very rarely, fatal, usually due to anaphylactic shock.

Wasps do not die after stinging, (unlike bees), and can sting more than once.

They can become a problem when they nest in and around domestic properties, especially in late summer when they become irritable with the onset of cooler weather and feeding on fermenting, over-ripe, fruit juices.

It is only necessary to destroy nests when they are located in or near buildings or near sensitive areas such as play areas for children.

Treatment

Wasps are generally easy to control using a number of commercial products, (for use against wasps), if access to the nest, or near to the nest area, can be gained.

Flight lines of foraging worker wasps going into, or away, from the nest will show the location of the nest entrance.

Nests should be treated after dusk when the wasps are at their least active. Protective clothing should always be worn including gloves, tight fitting sleeves and trouser cuffs. Other people and pets should be kept well away.

Only nests that can be easily reached should be treated. Difficult to reach nests should be left to professional pest controllers.



Nests can be treated with insecticide (designed for killing wasps) in the following ways:

Dusting: insecticide powder is applied around and into the entrance of the nest. The powder is then carried on the bodies of the wasps, where it contaminates the centre of the nest and eventually kills the queen and remaining wasps.

Spraying: a liquid insecticidal spray can be applied directly onto the nest or to the entrance holes of the concealed nest. The spray contaminates the nest in the same way as the powder.

Dead wasps can still sting so remember to sweep up and safely dispose of any dead ones.

Safety first

Please remember that pesticides are dangerous. Always read the label before use and follow the manufacturer's instructions at all times.

Keep pesticides away from children and pets at all times.

If a wasps nest is situated close to a fish pond do not contaminate the pond with insecticide as fish are very susceptible to insecticides.

Non harmful wasps and bees

Every effort should be made to avoid carrying out control treatments against non-pest wasp species and bees, because of their strong beneficial role as pollinators and predators of garden pests.

If you have any doubt about the identification of the insect please call the pest control section on 01482 300300.

Further advice

Please remember that pesticides are toxic and the manufacturer's instructions must be followed at all times.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this leaflet or would like a treatment, please contact the pest control section on (01482) 300300.

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