

## **Pests and Vermin - Information and Control Advice**

Common pests which can be found in and around your home include:

- Dermestes beetle
- Rats and mice
- Wasps
- Cockroaches
- Bedbugs
- Fleas
- Houseflies and bluebottles

### **Dermestes Beetle**

Dermestes beetles and larvae are common household pests which feed on animal protein such as wool, fur, hair, feathers, food scraps and animal remains. They are often found in the kitchen and breed under units and skirting boards. They are not known to transmit disease and pose no threat to public health.



### **How can I avoid getting dermestes beetles?**

Dermestes beetles can be found in any home, but good hygiene practices can help.

- Always keep food in suitable containers
- Keep food storage and preparation areas clean
- Dispose of household refuse properly

### **What can I do to get rid of dermestes beetles?**

- Treat infected areas with a crawling insect residual insecticide spray
- Remove food before treatment
- Thoroughly clean all areas to be treated

**Always follow the label instructions when using insecticides.**

### **Rats and Mice**

Rats can spread disease such as Weils disease, rat bite fever and salmonella, all of which pose a significant threat to public health.

Common house mice are a nuisance. They can carry disease and cause damage to plumbing (causing flooding) and cabling (causing fires).



### **What to do if I discover rats or mice in my home?**

Rodenticides and traps can be bought from most hardware stores and are to be used following the manufacturers instructions. For infestations, please seek professional advice.

## Wasps

Wasps do not carry disease but can inflict a painful sting. They become more irritable when the weather turns colder and after feeding on over ripe fruit. Wasp stings are painful and can cause intense swelling.

### **How do I get rid of wasps?**

Trying to deal with a wasps nest on your own can be dangerous. You can treat small infestations yourself if it can be carried out safely and confidently.

The following advice may help:

- Always wear protective clothing
- Wait until dusk. Wasps are less active in the dark
- Use an insecticide following manufacturers' instructions
- For large infestations, seek professional advice.



## Cockroaches

Cockroaches can be caused by poor hygiene and can be a danger in your home. They can spread diseases such as salmonella and gastroenteritis.

You can help prevent cockroach infestations by:

- Regularly emptying and cleaning bins
- Thoroughly cleaning your home
- Keeping food in sealed containers.



### **What to do if I find cockroaches in my home?**

Getting rid of cockroaches is very hard because their eggs are resistant to poisons. It is recommended that treatment is only carried out by a professional pest control operative.

## Bedbugs

Bedbugs are small brown insects that feed on human blood causing rashes and allergic reactions. They are generally found on bed frames and mattresses and usually feed without you noticing.

### **How can I get rid of bedbugs?**

Contact a professional pest control operative as soon as possible as early treatment is the most effective.



## Fleas

Fleas are biting insects that feed on the blood of animals and humans. They can live in soft furnishings and animal fur.



### **What can I do if I find fleas in my home?**

You can carry out a thorough treatment yourself or contact a professional pest control operative. Treat infested areas with an insecticide spray formulated for fleas. Once you have sprayed the areas you should leave them for ten days before vacuuming thoroughly and repeating the treatment.

### **Prevention and control**

- Flea and tick shampoos help to rid a pet of fleas and ticks
- Thoroughly vacuum pet bedding and upholstery and wash if possible
- Wash pet bedding every week, preferably at a temperature of 50°C

**Always follow manufacturers' instructions before starting any treatment.**

## Houseflies & Bluebottles

Flies are insects which breed and feed in dirty conditions. Houseflies can transmit intestinal worms and cause gastroenteritis. Bluebottles can spread disease too.



### **What can I do to get rid of houseflies and bluebottles?**

Houseflies and bluebottles are best controlled by following good hygiene practices.

- Keep dustbins clean
- Keep food covered or in containers
- Once flies are in the house, trap them with fly papers or use fly sprays.

**All treatments are to be used as per manufacturers' instructions.**