

Wasps

Queen wasps hibernate during the winter and in spring they will begin to build a nest with a papery material that is made by chewing small pieces of wood mixed with saliva.

In the nest the queen wasp will raise a few workers and these will start to enlarge the nest and help to rear the next generation of wasps. These wasps will look for food up to 400 metres from the nest.

If lots of wasps and other insects are seen on shrubbery or flowers it is likely they are simply feeding there. Therefore, a treatment is not needed, as it would only kill the wasps present at the time.

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

In the autumn, the young queens mate and leave the nest to hibernate. The rest of the nest dies out and that nest is never used again.

Control of wasps

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

Nests are not always visible as it may be in a cavity wall or in the eaves of the roof, but it is not necessary to have access to the nest in order to destroy the colony. A treatment can be done by applying treatment into the small hole to the nest that the wasps are using.

You can contact a private pest control company or the council's pest control service to carry out the treatment.

Treating nests yourself

If you decide to destroy the nest yourself, please note:

- treatment should be carried out early or late in the day when wasp activity is at a minimum
- most hardware shops and garden centres will sell insecticidal sprays and powders for the treatment of wasps, but care must be taken to follow the instructions on the label
- make sure you are well protected against wasp stings and have safe access to and from the nest location