



# City of Westminster

Westminster City Council  
Public Protection & Licensing Department  
**Pest Control Team**  
215 Lisson Grove,  
London,  
NW8 8LF.

## Pest Information

**FREE PHONE: 0800 3580514**

Email: [pestcontrol@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:pestcontrol@westminster.gov.uk)

Web: [www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)

## Wasps



### What they look like

All the wasps found in the United Kingdom, with the exception of the hornet, are very similar with black and yellow bands on their body and two pairs of wings.

### Where they live

In spring, the fertilized queen leaves her hibernating quarters to seek nesting sites for a new colony. These sites could be holes in the ground, hollow trees, sheds, loft spaces or wall cavities. The queen starts to build her nest with a papery material that she makes by chewing wood mixed with saliva; this is known as wasp paper. She will raise the first few workers who will then enlarge the nest and care for the immature wasps. Nest construction starts in spring and will reach its maximum size in September, when up to 10,000 workers may be present. An old nest is not used in subsequent years.

### What they eat

Wasps usually eat insects, which are mainly garden or household pests. They also feed on dustbin waste and animal carcasses.

### **Why wasps can be a pest**

Wasps become a nuisance to humans mainly in late summer as the weather gets cooler when they become more likely to sting. A wasp, unlike a bee, can sting many times. Although the wasp sting is not normally serious, it can be very painful, and in certain cases can cause a severe reaction.

### **How to control the problem**

Nests located in areas away from human contact can be left untreated. It should be remembered that wasps have a beneficial aspect as they kill many garden insect pests.

You are strongly recommended to seek professional help in dealing with a problem wasp nest. City of Westminster Council provides a pest control service for the treatment of wasp nests in domestic properties. Fully trained pest control officers will survey the infestation and then place treatments in the most appropriate locations. Follow up visits will be made in order to ensure the success of the treatment.

### **Can I treat them myself?**

Consider the risks very carefully before attempting a treatment yourself. Wasps are very aggressive when their nest is threatened, and multiple stings may result if your protective clothing is inadequate. If you do decide to treat the nest yourself, suitable products can be purchased from hardware shops and garden centres. You must first locate the entrance to the nest. Following the flight pattern of returning wasps may help. Treatment should be carried out either very early or late in the day when activity is at a minimum. Apply the insecticide to the entrance of the nest, or directly on to the nest if it is visible.

Keep well away from the treated nest for at least 24 hours

**Note: when using pesticides always follow the instructions on the label.**

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

Call City of Westminster Council Pest Control Team **Free Phone 0800 3580514**.

### **Treatment**

Fully trained and qualified council pest control officers will survey the premises; poison powder / aerosol will be administered in the most appropriate and safe manner. Treatment usually consists of a powder that is pushed through an extendable stick into the nest or the entrance to the nest. Doors and windows should be kept closed as the powder will cause the wasps to respond to the treatment and they can become aggressive. Pets should also be kept well away from treated areas. Should any follow up appointments be necessary these will be arranged with you at the end of each visit.

### **Post Treatment**

Wasps should start to die almost immediately but can take up to 2 -7 days before total eradication can be achieved. You should continue to take care around the nest during this process.

**Failing to report** a Wasp infestation is not wise; Wasps stings are painful and can cause prophylactic shock in some people. If you believe you have a Wasp infestation in your property, please contact City of Westminster Council Pest Control Team.