

Warwick District Council
Simple Guide to Common Pests

Bees

The Council will not treat to eradicate bees.

Honey Bees are protected under law and cannot be killed.

If the Honey Bees are in a swarm – often attached to a tree – they will fly away as the evening approaches. Honey Bees will not normally harm humans unless they are attacked – i.e. self defence.

A local bee keeper may be interested in collecting a swarm of bees if they can be easily reached. Contact the Bee Centre at National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh – via BT's Phone Book or Directory Enquiries.

Wild Bees in a hole in the ground may be treated by a private pest control firm if they are a nuisance – see Yellow Pages under Pest Control. The enquirer should check the cost and scale of the treatment before agreeing to receive the treatment.

Bees going in and out of individual holes in the ground or soft mortar of a wall are likely to be Solitary Bees also known as Mining Bees. The solution is to re-point the wall at the end of the summer. The bees will not harm humans.

Bats

Bats are a protected species and cannot be killed.

If they are a nuisance advice can be obtained from English Nature via BT's Phone Book or Directory Enquiries.

Badgers

Badgers are a protected species and cannot be killed.

If they are a nuisance advice can be obtained from English Nature via BT's Phone Book or Directory Enquiries.

Bed Bugs

Bed Bugs are a parasite feeding on the blood of birds or mammals (including humans).

They may gain access to a house via a birds nest, from an infested nearby property or via infested second hand furniture.

Premises can be treated by Environmental Health under the usual charging regime.

The premises should not be vacuumed for 21 days after treatment as this may remove the insecticide (*further written guidance available)

Cockroaches

Cockroaches are rarely found out of doors, preferring warm and humid places such as kitchens, boiler houses, laundries etc.

They carry a number of diseases – especially those associated with food poisoning.

They can be extremely difficult to control and may take several visits and several weeks to eradicate.

Premises should not be vacuumed for 21 days if possible after treatment as this may remove the insecticide.

June Bugs, May Bugs also known as **Cockchaffers**, are large flying beetles, brownish in colour which fly around trees and high buildings in May and June. These are harmless to humans and therefore do not need treating.

Black Garden Beetles / Stag Beetles / Devils Coachmen and other garden beetles are not harmful to humans. They can be picked up in a jam jar etc if found in the home and safely put outside.

Rats

Rats are known to spread disease and cause damage to property through gnawing,

The Environmental Health Business Unit can provide a free service to eradicate rat infestations from domestic premises and by payment at commercial premises. (*further written advice is available)

Mice

Mice are known to spread disease and cause damage to stored food by contamination with urine and faeces.

Premises can be treated by Environmental Health under the usual charging regime. (* further written advice is available)

Wasps

Wasps are only a danger to a small number of people who are allergic to their stings.

If the wasps are not a nuisance then they can be left alone. They will not normally cause damage to a property.

A "wasp nest" will normally die off in cold weather- the Queen over winters in a tree trunk or similar structure and emerges in the spring to start a new nest.

Nests are not used a second time.

If wasp activity is seen one year it will indicate a possible access point which other wasps may use in a subsequent year.

Premises can be treated by a private contractor. Details via Yellow Pages under Pest Control. The enquirer should check the cost and scale of the treatment before agreeing to receive the service.

The householder can treat a nest themselves if it can be safely reached. Suitable products are available from garden centres and DIY stores. Read the instructions.

It is best to use a wasp nest powder insecticide, puffed into the area where the wasps are seen coming and going. Best done in the evening when the nest is quiet. Activity may be seen around the hole/access point for a number of days. Rain may wash off the insecticide.

Pigeons/Birds

The Environmental Health Business Unit does not provide a service to treat for birds as they are not of public health importance. A private contractor may be willing to treat. Details via Yellow Pages under Pest Control. The enquirer should check the cost and scale of the treatment before agreeing to receive the service.

Woodlice / Ants / Spiders

The Environmental Health Business Unit does not provide a service to treat for these insects as they are not of public health importance.

A private contractor may be willing to treat. Details via Yellow Pages under Pest Control. The enquirer should check the cost and scale of the treatment before agreeing to receive the service.

The householder can treat infestations themselves. Suitable products are available from garden centres and DIY stores. A powder or crawling insect aerosol can be used. Read the instructions.

Squirrels, Rabbits, Foxes, Mink, Coypu, Feral Cats, Moles

The Environmental Health Business Unit does not provide a service to treat for these animals as they are not of public health importance.

A private contractor may be willing to treat. Details via Yellow Pages under Pest Control. The enquirer should check the cost and scale of the treatment before agreeing to receive the service.

Moths, Carpet Beetles, Psocides (flour mites), Grain Weevils & other pests of stored food

The Environmental Health Business Unit does not provide a service to treat for these insects as they are not of public health importance.

A private contractor may be willing to treat. Details via Yellow Pages under Pest Control. The enquirer should check the cost and scale of the treatment before agreeing to receive the service.

The householder can treat a nest themselves if it can be safely reached. Suitable products are available from garden centres and DIY store. A powder or crawling insect aerosol can be used on the floor etc.

Care must be taken if treating food cupboards. Remove and dispose of all contaminated/infested food. Remove all other food. Clean the cupboards to remove dust etc. Treat with a food safe insecticide. Read the instructions. Replace the food, preferably in sealed containers.

Note – references to the normal charging regime means;

A charge is made for the service provided to most householders. Pensioners are eligible to a half price reduction and those on income related benefit to a free service – current charges and further information are available from Environmental Health as is the further written guidance referred to in this guide.



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