

# Pest Control

how to deal with insects and vermin



## Introduction

Every year we receive many calls from tenants in our areas requesting help and advice on dealing with many annoying insects and pests.

This leaflet offers tenants advice on how to tackle an infestation of these pests and confirms the limited circumstances where we will instruct work to remedy the problem.

NOTE: We will only assist with pest control in the following circumstances:

- where the action we suggest in this leaflet has clearly been tried by the tenant and this has not resolved the problem, or
- where we have specifically stated the action we will take in this leaflet (see the section "Action by Thenue")

## Ants and other insects

### Action by the Tenant

Garden ants, although not classified by Environmental Health Officers as a 'Public Health' threat, are a nuisance and can be difficult to get rid of. Glasgow City Council Environmental Health Department will not deal with ant problems, however they have provided the following advice on how to deal with garden ants.

Garden ants usually nest outdoors in grass, under slabs and in flowerbeds.

Although they live outdoors they can and do find their way indoors through gaps in brickwork, at windows and doors etc. in search of foods. Removing any spillages of foodstuffs and by making sure that sweet foods in particular are stored securely in containers will discourage ants from entering your home.

You can treat areas affected by ants and other crawling insects, however you have to be thorough in your methods. Apply a residual insecticide for crawling insects that you will be able to buy at DIY stores and garden centres. This insecticide should be applied to the entrance to the nest if you know where it is, or at the areas where you find ants entering your home. You should also apply the insecticide where waste and other service pipes enter and leave the building, for example at your kitchen sink waste pipe.

The same advice and information can be applied when dealing with spider mites or any other crawling insects such as cockroaches.

### Action by Thenue

If the tenant has attempted to tackle the infestation and followed all the advice and guidance given, Thenue may visit the property and decide if it is appropriate to fill any gaps in brickwork, windows etc where the insects are coming in.

## Wasps and bees

### Action by the Tenant

Glasgow City Council will deal with wasp problems, but not without payment. You can take steps to deal with, or minimise, the effects of wasps entering your property. Once again, keeping foodstuffs that will attract these insects properly contained will discourage the insects from entering your home. If you discover wasp nests you should not disturb the nest in any way as you may provoke an attacking swarm. However, some insecticide placed at, or near, the entrance to the nest will kill off the insects inside usually within a 24-hour period. Extreme care should be taken if you decide to take such a course of action. Most wasps' nests are located in isolated areas of buildings such as in the eaves of a roof. Generally speaking, the best advice would be to leave these nests alone if the insects are not causing any harm or creating a serious nuisance.

### Action by Thenue

If you are experiencing a serious problem with wasps in your property however, then we will deal with the problem where the wasps are causing our tenants harm or creating a serious nuisance. In such a case, we will visit the property to determine the severity and cause of the problem and take action as appropriate.

We have also been advised by Glasgow Environmental Health Department that bees' nests, unlike wasps, cannot be disturbed in any way. If a bees' nest is

causing a serious nuisance then only a registered Bee Keeper can remove it. Fortunately instances of bees' nests being discovered in our properties are very rare.

## Vermin

Glasgow City Council Environmental Health Department provide a service to Council Tax payers for the removal of vermin (mainly mice and rats) and in all such cases you should contact them on 0141 287 9700 to arrange a visit.

### Action by Thenue

The Environmental Health Officers will usually lay baits to deal with the rodents and may identify areas where the creatures are gaining access. Thenew will assist the Environmental Health Officers if remedial work to access points is required.

## Other animals and birds

We occasionally receive reports of other creatures setting up home in our buildings. Squirrels and birds in loft areas are a fairly common scenario.

### Action by Thenue

Should you suspect that you have such a case, then please contact our office. We will endeavour to seal off access points to the affected areas and make good any damage caused.

## Pigeons

Other creatures considered as vermin are pigeons. Once again, discouraging these creatures from gathering by limiting their access to food is the best preventative action that you can take. While we appreciate that it has been a custom for many people over the years to feed birds, this unfortunately can cause serious problems with bird fouling and other damage to the building. Pigeon droppings can also present a health hazard to children in particular.

If you have any concerns regarding any creature you discover in your property, we would advise you to contact the Environmental Health Department for advice.

More information and useful advice on all of the above can be found from Glasgow City Council

[www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)

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