

# Wasps



The common wasp (*vespula vulgaris*) is common throughout Britain and Northern Europe.

The fertilised queen wasp comes out of hibernation around the middle of April and sets up a new colony. The new colony starts as a 'cell' that is made up of chewed timber and bark and is the size of a golf ball. Colonies are set up inside nests, in soil banks, in roof spaces and in cavities in trees and walls. Nests are often built in the roofs and under the edges of roofs (the eaves).

The queen then lays eggs, which turn into adult workers who begin to extend the nest and provide food for the queen as she lays more eggs. By late summer, the nest can contain up to 5000 wasps. In late summer, males and young queens emerge and mate.

The fertilised queens fly away to choose a suitable place to hibernate.



Wasps can become a nuisance in late summer.

As the weather gets cooler, the workers and remaining males become sluggish and die. Only fertilised queens survive, emerging the following spring to start new colonies. Wasps can become a nuisance in late summer. At this time, the workers search for sweet substances and can become a significant nuisance in homes, factories and so on. They can sting. This habit increases as the insect becomes more irritable with the onset of cooler weather.

Wasps are generally easy to control if the nest can be reached and the wasps destroyed with an insecticide. This will be either a dust or liquid applied to the nest entrance, or nearby, so that wasps entering the nest are contaminated. The nest itself will not normally be removed. (Wasps do not live in old nests in future years.)

## Where to get help

**We no longer provide a pest-control service,** but you can find a list of local accredited pest control contractors by using the directory on the British Pest Control Associations (BPCA) website at [www.bpca.org.uk](http://www.bpca.org.uk) or phone **01332 294288**.

Or you can find a list of contractors in directories like the Yellow Pages, or by searching online.

**Rochford District Council**

Council Offices, South Street, Rochford,  
Essex SS4 1BW

Phone: **01702 318111**

Email: **customerservices@rochford.gov.uk**

Website: **www.rochford.gov.uk/pest control**

If you would like this information in  
large print, Braille or another  
language phone us on

**01702 318111**