

# Wasps

## Information leaflet

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EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## **WHAT DO 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 DO THEY LIVE?**

In Spring, the queen leaves her hibernating quarters to seek nesting sites. These could be holes in the ground, hollow trees, sheds, loft spaces etc. Construction of a nest will begin in Spring and reach its maximum size in September.

## **WHAT DO THEY EAT?**

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

## **DISEASE TRANSMISSION**

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. Very occasionally, the sting may cause anaphylactic shock. Symptoms of this include difficulty breathing, faintness, a rash, swelling of the face and vomiting with abdominal pain or diarrhoea. Immediate medical assistance should be sought if anaphylactic shock is suspected

## **CONTROL MEASURES**

If you do decide to treat the nest yourself, suitable products can be purchased from hardware shops and garden centres. However, please consider the risks carefully before attempting a treatment yourself. Wasps are very aggressive when their nest is threatened. 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.

Alternatively pest control companies can be contacted to eradicate the wasps and can be found on the internet or in the yellow pages.

This Council does not provide a pest control treatment service at the present time, however should you require further advice please contact Environmental Services on 01353 665555.

**WHEN USING INSECTICIDES ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL.**