

## Identification – Honey Bee & Nest



### PROOFING

It is advised that any holes around pipes, cables etc should be filled in. Missing mortar on brickwork should be repointed. Cover air vents using fine mesh material. These measures will minimise the possibility of wasps entering a property to build a nest.

### WASP STINGS

The sting is caused by the injection of venom into the victim by the ovipositor of the females. Unlike bees, the sting can be withdrawn by the wasp. The venom is haemolytic, haemorrhagic and neurotoxic. Histamine is also present which causes the redness, flare and weal in the skin.

Wasp and bee stings around the throat may lead to respiratory obstruction or may be directly toxic causing faintness, respiratory difficulty, vomiting, diarrhoea and perhaps urticaria. These symptoms are only likely to occur after a mass attack.

The main hazard is the risk of anaphylactic shock arising from repeated stings. Symptoms may appear rapidly and include respiratory distress, faintness, an itching rash, swelling of the face and vomiting with abdominal pain, cramp or diarrhoea. If these symptoms occur seek medical attention.

**Please be advised that we are not responsible for any injury or damage caused where persons carry out treatment themselves. Ensure you follow the manufacturers instructions carefully when using any product. Keep any insecticide away from children and animals and ensure it is stored safely.**

### Where to Get Further Advice?

**PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICES  
TOWN HALL  
DUKE STREET  
BARROW-IN-FURNESS  
CUMBRIA  
LA14 2LD**

**Email: [environment@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:environment@barrowbc.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.barrowbc.gov.uk](http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk)**

**Tel: 01229 876543  
Fax: 01229 876411**



## ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS

# Bees & Wasps



**Barrow Borough Council  
Public Protection Services**

## ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS

### CHARACTERISTICS

The common wasps are about 14mm long and brightly banded in yellow and black, whilst the Hornet which is the least aggressive of all the wasps is larger and marked in yellow and brown.

### BEHAVIOUR

**WASPS** - Wasps are generally social & live in colonies, nests or hives. Some have the ovipositor adapted to stinging whilst others can't sting. The workers can be seen in large numbers causing problems in domestic and catering situations because of their foraging habits, whilst collecting food to feed the queen.

The queen wasp emerges from hibernation in the spring and builds a round nest 2 - 3 inches in diameter from chewed wood pulp. After the workers emerge from the pupae they carry on building the nest.

The nest may contain several thousand wasps and is often built below ground in a garden, in a roof space or attic where the wasps may have considerable contact with humans. It is late summer when wasps are a nuisance as they go for ripe fruit, jams and other sweet substances.

Each nest lasts for one season, and is unlikely to be re-occupied.

**BEES** - The vast majority, especially honey bees are in fact highly beneficial in their role as pollinators, and measures should only be taken to control them by removal of the nest from a domestic or dangerous situation.

### LIFE CYCLE

The Queen lays the eggs, these hatch into pale grubs (fed on insects caught by the queen).

After a few weeks these pupate. The adult workers emerge

Towards the end of the season new queens are produced which form colonies for the following year and the rest of the colony dies.

### CONTROL

**Wasps** - If a wasp nest is in a position where it causes a nuisance, destruction of the nest is the only satisfactory method of control. Nests can be treated by using a wasps nest destroyer, which comes in a powder, spray or foam treatment. If possible, control measures should be carried out early morning or in the evening, when the temperature is cooler and when the majority of the wasps will be in the nest. After treatment it is likely wasps will swarm around the area for a short length of time, before they die.

FOLLOW MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, AND WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

Suitable precautions should be taken when treating the nest as the wasps will become aggressive when they are disturbed.

It is possible to treat wasps nests yourself, if they are no larger than the size of a tennis ball. If the nest is bigger or if a nest is discovered in the roof space or attic, it is recommended to seek treatment from a professional pest control contractor.

### Identification- Wasp & Nest



**Honey Bees** - Bees are not classed as pests, as they are pollinators of fruit and flowers, and should not be destroyed, unless they are in a place that is causing a nuisance or a danger to humans or pets, and cannot be collected by a bee keeper. If a nest of honey bees is discovered, a local bee keeper should be contacted in the first instance. Only as a last resort, should the nest be destroyed. Honey bees often swarm, and can land on property. They will usually move from the property within a few hours. If this is not the case, contact a local bee keeper.