

IF YOU WISH TO TREAT THE PROPERTY YOURSELF

1. It is essential to treat the entire area including harborages using surface sprays or powders as appropriate. Apply all insecticide products according to label directions. Remember that when using an Insect Growth Regulator alone adult fleas will survive and may continue to bite. Products can be bought from a DIY store or veterinary surgery.
2. If you have pets, then these should be treated as soon as possible before treatment is carried out.
3. Hoover up, remove hoover bag and replace with a new one and put a bit of flea powder in the new bag. If a dyson-type machine, empty container and disinfect it (if this is not done, re-infestation of the property may occur).
4. Move as much off the floor as possible e.g. paper, boxes etc prior to treatment.
5. If fleas are in bedroom - strip bedding and place in bin bag to carry to washing machine. Wash bedding etc on hot wash. Put bedding back into a new bin bag when washed, until treatment has been carried out.
6. Follow instructions of product used.

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
Web: www.barrowbc.gov.uk**

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ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS

FLEA CONTROL



**Barrow Borough Council
Public Protection Services**

ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS

FLEA CONTROL

Flea infestations are not always an indication of poor hygiene, a localised area of poor hygiene (i.e. pets bedding) could create an infestation problem, good hygiene practices will contribute to control.

Establish the full extent of the infestation indoors and outside. Sunbathing spots and other areas regularly occupied by pets can be a prime source of infections.

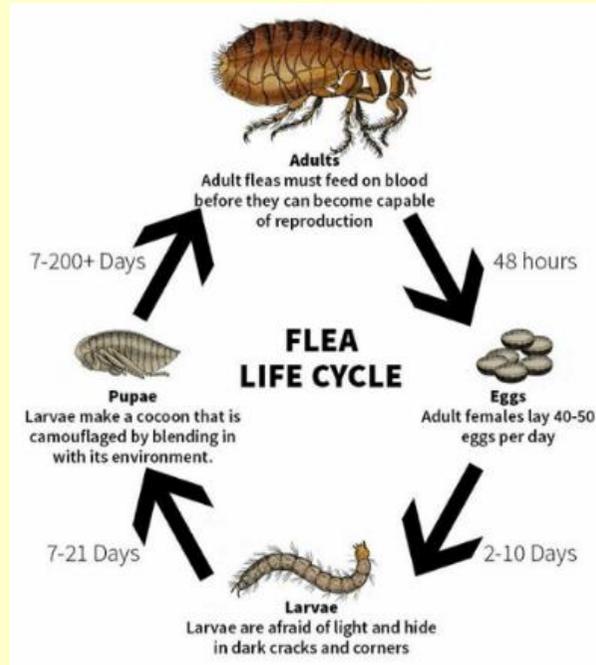
Flea bites are not always immediately apparent. They can be identified as a small red dot surrounded by a reddened area. Because we all react differently it can take some time for this to appear causing confusion as to when the bite took place. The environment occupied when the bite becomes apparent or starts to itch may not be that which is infested.

Fleas will remain dormant in unoccupied premises and will be stimulated to emerge by the vibrations set up by a passing host. This explains the occasional mass attacks which take place in deserted premises

THE LIFE CYCLE

The life cycle is dependent on many factors which can alter the rate at which fleas will reproduce; these include temperature, humidity and available food source. In ideal conditions this can be as little as four weeks and adult fleas can live for upto 2 years.

Thorough vacuuming can collect all stages of the flea life cycle and could eliminate the need for chemical control.



PRIOR TO TREATMENT

- 1 Ensure that infested pets are treated. A vet will advise on appropriate product, or arrange treatment of animal.
- 2 Clean and vacuum the entire area where host animals have access. Pay special attention to pets bedding which should be washed in hot detergent or destroyed. After hoovering, remove hoover bag and place in plastic bag and dispose of in outside bin. Replace with a new hoover bag with a bit of flea powder in it.

If you have a cylinder-type Hoover, empty the cylinder and disinfect.

Bird and animal nests should be destroyed if they are implicated in the infestation. This will create the most favorable conditions for the insecticide to perform at its optimum.

- 3 Concrete or tiled floors and bare floorboards can all harbor infestations and should be washed and vacuumed. Fleas can find harborage in the cracks between floorboards and these too should be thoroughly cleaned. Remove articles from the floors so the entire surface can be treated.
- 4 If fleas are in bedroom – strip bedding and place in plastic bag to carry to washing machine. Wash bedding etc on a hot wash. Put bedding back in a new plastic bag when washed, until Pest Control Officer has sprayed.

AFTER TREATMENT

Where liquid sprays are used keep unprotected persons and animals away from treated areas until surfaces are dry, which can be a few hours.

Insecticide residues should be left undisturbed for as long as possible to ensure maximum control of the infestation. You should not Hoover up for at least 10-14 days after treatment.

The fleas may be observed after treatment due to the newly hatched fleas, which have not come into contact with the insecticide.