

Pest Control treatments for bees and wasps

Please note that at times of high activity, requests for pest control treatments for bees and wasps will be placed onto a waiting list.

Payments for treatments need to be made prior to a visit by a pest control officer.

Bees

These insects rarely cause a nuisance and wherever possible they should be left alone as they pollinate and are beneficial to the environment .

St.Helens Council **will not** treat for bees unless they are found in situations where they pose a danger to people, such as:

- Entrance / exit to property
- Inside sheds / garages if regular access is required
- In the ground
- In bird boxes if children are likely to be playing close by .Wherever possible the bird box will be removed and the bees repatriated into woodland.

Which bees do I have ?

There are many types of bees and the following information will help you to identify the type that you have.

Masonry bees - harmless

Found: in the ground or in the pointing of a house. One bee per hole.

Description: Mainly black, with red/brown bottom

Occur : May/June and only live for approximately 5 weeks

Bumble bees - harmless

Found: In the shed or compost heap, under decking

Description: Round large and furry with a variety of coloured stripes at the tail

Occur: Throughout the summer months

Tree bees – harmless

Found: In bird boxes or high up in soffit boards of the house

Description: Coloured orange black white from head to tail .

Occur: Mid to late summer - when the hovering bees are sighted the nest has already been there for around 2 months and will persist for approximately 5 more weeks

Honey bees

If a "ball of bees" arrive and settle in a tree or bush these will be honey bees. The bees have left their nest or hive and have swarmed. They will be full honey and unlikely to sting in this state.

A bee keeper will need to be contacted in order to remove the swarm. Details of local bee keepers can be found at: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/swarm>

Wasps

Found: In the roof of houses or there may be a round nest in a tree or bird box.

Description: Bright yellow with black stripes and they go after all sweet things.

Occur: throughout the summer months

St. Helens Council will treat for wasps in your home and garden. If the officer attends and is unable to complete the treatment due to the nest being inaccessible, for example the nest is under roof tiles or soffit boards a 50% refund of the treatment cost will be authorised.

If an officer visits having received a request to treat for wasps and it is found that the insects are bees the officer will make a decision as to whether the bees are to be treated. If advice only is given a 50% refund of the treatment cost will be authorised.