

BPCA

**British Pest
Control
Association**

MEMBER

Appoint a professional

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) is the premier trade association for professional Pest Control Companies in the UK. By choosing a BPCA assessed member you can be assured that the services you receive are from a trained and trusted company that meets our strict membership criteria. The BPCA member logo is earned by our members, so ensure your contractor has it.

Further information

You can find your local BPCA member either on the website at bpca.org.uk or by calling 01332 294288.



www.bpca.org.uk

**The UK's largest
and leading pest
control association**

A professional service from a BPCA member will:

- Be carried out by a suitably trained and qualified expert committed to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Adhere to our Industry Code of Practice
- Include detailed advice on pest prevention measures
- Provide comprehensive reporting systems covering all treatment aspects
- Meet legal and 'due diligence' requirements, comply with legislation and avoid possible prosecution
- Be safe, ensuring staff, customers and members of the public are protected through RISK and COSHH assessments

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Follow us on twitter @britpestcontrol

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Pest Advice Leaflet



Fleas

www.bpca.org.uk

About Fleas

The most common species of Flea is the Cat Flea, known for readily biting humans. The Bird Flea are next in importance, followed by the rare Dog Fleas, although other species may become temporarily attached to dogs. Finally Human Fleas which are extremely rare.

- **Appearance** - Adult fleas are small (averages 2mm in size) wingless insects, with flattened and red-brown, with backwardly directed spines and legs designed for jumping.
- **Characteristics** - All adult Fleas are parasitic on warm-blooded animals. The females lay their eggs after feeding on the infested animal. Female Fleas can live up to two years, during which time they can lay up to 1000 eggs. The eggs drop onto the floor and the animal's bedding. After several days the eggs will develop into larvae. When fully grown the larvae spin well camouflaged silken cocoons. When fully developed the adult waits within this until it detects the vibrations caused by a potential host. Only then does it emerge. The complete lifecycle takes about a month in the summer.
- **Habitat** - Mainly active in communal rooms where pets sleep and where there is most activity. Fleas are generally found to be living on pets, in carpets, pet bedding and upholstered furniture.
- **Diet** - Adult Fleas feed on the blood of humans and animals. The larval stages live in the nest of the host and feed on skin, feathers and, most importantly, the blood-rich faeces of the adult flea.

Why control Fleas?

In the UK there is little evidence that Fleas spread disease. However Flea bites can cause intense irritation around the central bright red spot. Different people react differently to a bite, both in terms of degree of reaction and time taken to react.



Signs of a Flea infestation

- Pets constantly scratching may be the first sign, which can be confirmed either by seeing fleas or flea droppings in the coat of your pet. These signs are easily spotted in light coloured animals by brushing back the hair. In dark coated breeds it may be better to comb the animal over a sheet of paper to highlight any flea droppings as they fall. The identity of the black specks may be confirmed by adding a few drops of water, if they turn red, your pet has fleas.
- Bites on you or family members usually around ankles and legs. In humans, flea bites can produce an irritating and allergic reaction. The typical symptom of a flea bite is a small red spot about 5mm in diameter.
- If you have an active infestation, you may see Fleas jumping in your carpet and furniture.

How do I prevent a Fleas?

It's difficult to prevent your pets from getting Fleas. However there are some things you can do to reduce your chances of getting them:

- **Pet maintenance** - Applying veterinary approved Flea products to your pet on a regular basis.
- **Vacuuming** - Frequently vacuum the areas your pet is around, especially carpeted areas in and any furniture that is frequented by your pet.
- **Washing** - Regularly wash your pet's bedding, blanket and other washable items in the hottest water possible.
- **Gardening** - Try and keep your garden neat and tidy by mowing your lawn and raking up any leaves, grass or bush clippings.



How to get rid of Fleas

For a Flea infestation, we strongly recommend you contact a professional pest control company, preferably a member of the BPCA. A trained professional will have the technical knowledge and access to a range of professional use insecticides which are not available to the public.

Prior to an insecticide treatment, clear as much floor space as possible. To ensure that treatment is as thorough as possible. Vacuuming all areas helps to remove any debris, eggs, larvae and adult fleas. The vibration of the vacuum cleaner also helps to stimulate adults to hatch from their cocoon stage. Remember to remove the waste collection compartment/bag, from the vacuum cleaner, and dispose of it in an outside bin as you may have collected eggs, larvae and adult fleas while vacuuming.

The standard treatment for infested premises is the application of a residual insecticide, either as a liquid spray or a powder. The insecticide is applied to all floor surfaces. Ensure you do not vacuum or wash for at least 2 weeks (or longer if possible), or you'll be in danger of eliminating the residual insecticide which will lead to a failed treatment.