The common wasp (vespula vulgaris) is common throughout Britain and Northern Europe.

The fertilised queen wasp comes out of hibernation around the middle of April and sets up a new colony. The new colony starts as a ‘cell’ that is made up of chewed timber and bark and is the size of a golf ball. Colonies are set up inside nests, in soil banks, in roof spaces and in cavities in trees and walls. Nests are often built in the roofs and under the edges of roofs (the eaves).

The queen then lays eggs, which turn into adult workers who begin to extend the nest and provide food for the queen as she lays more eggs. By late summer, the nest can contain up to 5000 wasps. In late summer, males and young queens emerge and mate.

The fertilised queens fly away to choose a suitable place to hibernate.

Wasps can become a nuisance in late summer. At this time, the workers search for sweet substances and can become a significant nuisance in homes, factories and so on. They can sting. This habit increases as the insect becomes more irritable with the onset of cooler weather.

Wasps are generally easy to control if the nest can be reached and the wasps destroyed with an insecticide. This will be either a dust or liquid applied to the nest entrance, or nearby, so that wasps entering the nest are contaminated.

Our pest-control contractor can carry out a treatment to remove wasps’ nests.

There is a charge for this service.

**What to expect**

- You will have to pay a call-out charge which covers the cost of treatment for one wasps’ nest.

- The wasps will be destroyed within three days of the treatment. If not, we will offer you a second treatment. This would be free of charge.

- We will not provide treatment if the problem is bees not wasps. In this situation you will still have to pay the call-out charge.
• We will not be able to carry out the treatment if we cannot get to the nest, or we cannot get to it safely without using special equipment, or it is higher than the gutter level of a two-storey house and we can only reach it from the outside.

• You will see a small amount of residual spray or powder around the nest and underneath it. We will give you safety advice on this.

• We will ask you to remove any equipment or objects from under the nest.

Terms of our service

We will only treat homes that are not used for business purposes. The term ‘home’ includes gardens, sheds, outhouses and so on.

• We will only provide the service if the owner or occupier of the property agrees or has asked for it in writing.

• The contractor will not be able to offer a specific time for the treatment. He or she will normally (but not always) arrange a morning or afternoon visit. Although the contractor will try to carry out the treatment out on the agreed day, this cannot be guaranteed.

• We can refuse to provide the treatment if we have good reason.

• The contractor will not carry out any building work needed to get to the nest.

• The nest itself will not be removed. (Wasps do not live in old nests in following years.)

Fees and charges

We have negotiated treatment at a reduced charge for residents who pay Council Tax to Rochford District Council. For a full list of our fees and charges please visit our Pest Control page on our website at www.rochford.gov.uk/pestcontrol or phone our customer services team on 01702 318111.

The reduced rate is not available for treatment if any part of the property is used for business purposes (this may include areas such as corridors and hallways shared by more than one household).

Rochford District Council
Council Offices, South Street, Rochford, Essex SS4 1BW
Phone: 01702 318111
Email: customerservices@rochford.gov.uk
Website: www.rochford.gov.uk/pestcontrol

If you would like this information in large print, Braille or another language phone us on 01702 318111