



**DISTRICT PEST CONTROL LTD**

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**WASP NEST TREATMENT AND REMOVAL**

**Document Reference:** DPC-SOP-WASP-001

**Version:** 1.0

**Review Date:** Annually

## **1. PURPOSE**

This procedure establishes the safe system of work for the inspection, treatment and management of wasp nests by District Pest Control Ltd.

The procedure is designed to:

- Protect technicians and members of the public.
- Ensure treatments are carried out safely.
- Prevent contamination of watercourses and the environment.
- Ensure compliance with pesticide legislation and product labels.
- Standardise treatment methods across the business.

## **2. SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all District Pest Control technicians undertaking:

- Wasp nest inspections.
- Wasp nest treatments.
- Follow-up visits.
- Wasp nest removals where required.

This procedure applies to domestic, commercial and agricultural premises.

## **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

Technicians are responsible for:

- Completing a site-specific risk assessment.
- Confirming nest location.
- Selecting the safest treatment method.
- Following pesticide label instructions.
- Preventing environmental contamination.
- Refusing unsafe work.

#### **4. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

The following minimum PPE shall be worn:

- Wasp suit or bee suit.
- Protective gloves.
- Safety footwear.
- Eye protection where required.

Additional PPE may be required following risk assessment.

#### **5. PRE-TREATMENT INSPECTION**

Prior to treatment the technician shall:

- Confirm insect identification.
- Locate nest entrance points.
- Assess nest activity.
- Assess access requirements.
- Identify environmental risks.
- Identify vulnerable persons.
- Identify nearby public access routes.

The technician shall explain the treatment process and expected outcomes to the customer before treatment begins.

#### **6. IDENTIFICATION**

Treatment shall only proceed where evidence confirms:

- Common wasps (*Vespula* species).
- German wasps (*Vespula germanica*).
- Other nuisance social wasp species.

Honey bee colonies shall not be treated.

Where honey bees are identified, the customer should be referred to a local beekeeper where appropriate.

#### **7. ACCESS REQUIREMENTS**

## **Loft and Attic Spaces**

Where nests are located within lofts or roof voids:

- Access must be from a suitable loft hatch.
- Adequate lighting must be available.
- Safe flooring or crawl boards must be present where required.
- Technicians must remain on safe load-bearing surfaces.

Technicians shall not walk directly on ceiling plasterboard.

Treatment should be carried out using an extension applicator wherever possible to minimise disturbance.

## **Ladder Use**

District Pest Control policy is:

### **NO LADDER TREATMENT OF WASP NESTS**

Technicians shall not:

- Carry out treatments whilst standing on ladders.
- Climb ladders to reach nests.
- Apply pesticides from ladders.

This restriction applies regardless of ladder height.

## **Approved Alternative Access Methods**

Approved methods include:

- Ground level treatment.
- Extension pole applicators.
- Telescopic dusters.
- Long-reach application equipment.
- Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) where specifically authorised.

The safest access method shall always be selected.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Environmental protection is a critical part of every wasp treatment.

Prior to treatment technicians shall identify:

- Surface water drains.

- Watercourses.
- Rivers.
- Streams.
- Ponds.
- Fish tanks.
- Water butts.
- Livestock drinking troughs.

Treatment shall not proceed where pesticide contamination of water is likely.

### **Preventing Water Contamination**

Technicians shall:

- Use the minimum amount of product required.
- Apply products directly into nest entrances.
- Avoid excessive dust applications.
- Avoid treatment during heavy rainfall.
- Prevent run-off into drains or waterways.

Pesticides must never be applied directly to:

- Watercourses.
- Surface water drains.
- Ponds.
- Rivers.
- Streams.

Any accidental contamination must be reported immediately.

## **9. TREATMENT PROCEDURE**

### **Ground Level Nests**

1. Confirm nest entrance.
2. Establish exclusion zone.
3. Wear PPE.
4. Apply approved insecticidal dust or liquid formulation in accordance with product label.
5. Observe nest activity.
6. Advise customer regarding post-treatment activity.

### **Cavity Wall Nests**

1. Identify primary entrance.
2. Apply product directly into entrance.
3. Avoid over application.
4. Do not seal entrance immediately after treatment.
5. Advise customer to leave access points undisturbed for a minimum of 7 days.

### **Loft and Roof Void Nests**

1. Access loft safely.
2. Locate nest.
3. Use extension lance where appropriate.
4. Apply product directly to nest or flight point.
5. Minimise disturbance.
6. Exit loft promptly following treatment.

## **10. CUSTOMER ADVICE**

Customers shall be advised:

- Increased wasp activity may occur immediately after treatment.
- Activity should reduce significantly within 24–48 hours.
- Complete control may take up to 7 days.
- Nest removal is usually unnecessary.
- Treated nests are not normally reused the following season.

Customers should avoid disturbing the treated area.

## **11. NEST REMOVAL**

Removal of the physical nest is not normally required.

Where removal is requested:

- Activity must have ceased.
- The nest must be confirmed inactive.
- Appropriate PPE must be worn.

Removed nests shall be disposed of as controlled waste where applicable.

## **12. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

If a technician receives multiple stings:

- Move to a safe area immediately.

- Assess for allergic reaction.
- Seek medical assistance where required.

Emergency services shall be contacted immediately where symptoms include:

- Difficulty breathing.
- Facial swelling.
- Collapse.
- Signs of anaphylaxis.

### **13. REFUSAL OF WORK**

Technicians shall refuse treatment where:

- Safe access cannot be achieved.
- Nest location cannot be confirmed.
- Environmental contamination risk is unacceptable.
- Weather conditions create excessive risk.
- Customer behaviour creates a safety concern.

The reasons for refusal shall be recorded.

### **14. RECORDS**

The treatment report shall include:

- Date and time.
- Nest location.
- Product used.
- Quantity applied.
- Environmental observations.
- Customer advice given.
- Follow-up recommendations.

### **15. SUMMARY**

District Pest Control Ltd adopts a safety-first approach to wasp nest management.

Key principles are:

- Correct identification.
- Safe access.

- No treatments from ladders.
- Extension pole application wherever possible.
- Protection of waterways and the environment.
- Compliance with pesticide legislation and product labels.

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