

BUGS & CREEPY CRAWLIES

Now that the warmer weather has finally arrived it brings with it an increase in the number of insects to the garden and the home. Flies, fleas, ants, beetles, spiders and other “bugs” have arrived and are searching for food so here are some tips on how to control the most common crawlies if you get some in your house.

Beetles

This is a term which covers a range of very similar insects, the most common of which, in Glasgow, is *Dermestes peruvianus*. It is generally held that these insects pose no public health threat as they are not associated with the spread of any disease affecting humans.



They are most likely to be found in the kitchen, as this is close to available food, but they can be found elsewhere in the house, such as soft furnishings, where children may spill food crumbs, in a sofa for example.

If you are unfortunate enough to find that you have an infestation of beetles your first course of action will be to clean the house thoroughly, paying particular attention to vacuuming the wall/floor junction, pull out the cooker and clear any food spillages/debris which you may find, and remove the kick plates from any fitted-kitchen base units and vacuum the exposed void areas.

Please note that Provanhall Housing Association and Glasgow City Council Pest Control do not carry out any work relating to insects as they are not caused by the property or cause any major health issues.

Most infestations are due to weather and environmental issues and can be easily brought under control with an increased hygiene action and use of proprietary insecticide available from most good DIY stores and supermarkets.

Glasgow City Council Pest Control Department has good detailed advice on their web site on how to control insects in the home and can be view at:

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Environment/PublicHealth/Pestcontrol/>

This link is also available on the Provanhall Housing Association web site at:

www.provanhallha.org.uk/bugs-and-insects/

Ants

The good news is that garden ants are not 'Public Health' pests.

The bad news is that they are a real nuisance and very difficult to get rid of. Although the Association does not carry out treatments for garden ants, here is some information which may be of help:



1. Garden ants, also known as black ants (*Lasius niger*), are about 3.4 to 5 mm long.
2. They usually nest outdoors, in lawns, under slabs and in flower beds.
3. They search for sweet foods so your first control measure must be to ensure that you are not accidentally encouraging them - even a small spill of a soft drink would be a feast to a horde of ants.
4. Ants are social insects and live in a nest.

Treatment:

You can carry out treatment against ants yourself but you have to be thorough.

- Apply a residual insecticide for crawling insects. These are the descriptions which you will see on the products package.
- You will be able to buy these at many DIY supermarkets and garden centres.
- Apply it to wherever ants can enter your home.
- Inside your house you should apply the insecticide behind the sink unit, skirting boards, around doors and window frames.
- Also apply it where any waste pipes or other services enter the building and make sure insecticide gets into any small cracks and crevices.
- You are trying to create a band of insecticide which ants must cross to get into your home.

Please read the label and follow the instructions on the pesticide you chose.