

## Play your part in the elimination process.



### Getting rid of Fleas

It can be extremely difficult to get rid of a flea infestation from your home. Pest technicians can usually get rid of fleas with one or two treatments. However, it must be noted that particularly persistent infestations may need several treatments over a period of time. *(Treatments may need to be re-scheduled if the advice below is not followed and may incur additional costs)*

Only about 10% of the flea population, (mainly the adults), are on your pet. The flea eggs, larvae, pupa, and the few adults that reside in the carpeting, bedding, and living areas make up approximately 90% of the flea population. Neglecting this population of fleas will ensure that the flea problem will continue and worsen over time. It is important to ensure EPM and the client work together to eradicate fleas from the home. A date and time should be arranged so as the following process can be followed.

1. Before a treatment can take place the client must tidy throughout the property. All items should be cleaned and placed in cupboards etc. Access will be required to all carpeted areas and beds etc.
2. Collect all clothing and bedding and put them through a hot wash. Fleas are not aquatic and cannot normally survive a cycle through the washer.
3. Vacuuming - this is *very important* for overall flea eradication. Please ensure ALL areas are vacuumed thoroughly before any treatment is applied. This will pick up (and get rid of) adults, eggs, larvae and pupae before they develop. Putting a flea collar in the vacuum bag and emptying the bag frequently are also important; otherwise, the fleas will hatch, develop, and leave the vacuum to re-infest the living quarters. Dispose of the vacuum bag properly and frequently.
4. Sweep/clean all hard floor surfaces to include laminates. It is important to focus on the wall/floor edges as this is where treatments will be applied.
5. All affected areas will be treated with a residual insecticide to ensure any remaining insects that cannot be found, will be destroyed. This will include all mattresses, carpeted areas, wall/floor edges and textile furniture etc.
6. Once all areas have been treated the property will be fogged with an insecticide. This is intended to provoke any insects into movement and they will subsequently move or jump onto the residual insecticide.
7. The property should be vacated when the fogging process begins. It is recommended that the property remains empty for a minimum of 3-4 hours but more if required.
8. The property requires venting before re-entry. Open windows and doors and allow a breeze to go through the property to disperse any remaining odours.
9. Do not allow children or pets back into the property until all areas are dry. Rooms sprayed with any insecticide can only be reoccupied by children or animals once the sprayed surfaces are dry. Timescales will normally be communicated during the initial inspection/treatment dependant on the insecticides being used.
10. Once vented/cleared and treated surfaces are dry, furniture can be re-assembled. Clean sheets must be placed on treated mattresses before being used. Place clean covers over furniture before use allowing the insecticide to continue working. Ensure ALL food preparation areas and worktops are cleaned before use.
11. Do not wash treated surfaces or vacuum carpets for as long as possible, normally at least 48/72 hours.
12. An insecticide information sheet will be supplied by the technician before leaving the site.

### Preventing an infestation

It can be difficult to avoid fleas as they can be transported so easily. The best thing you can do is inspect your animals and home regularly for telltale signs and take immediate action if necessary.