

LIVING WITH BEES

Your pest controller has advised you that the insects you have living in your property are bees. They are therefore important and useful for the pollination of a large variety of plants, so should be preserved, if at all possible. Many species are either harmless or are very unaggressive, so it may be possible to live alongside them without fear. Your pest controller will be able to advise you accordingly. If possible, please live with the bees in your property.

From time to time, however, bees can become a nuisance or even a danger to humans, so may need to be destroyed. This is perfectly legal, as no bees are protected by Law - but, how they are dealt with is affected by a number of legal constraints, particularly if they are **Honey Bees**.

These bees will have come from a nearby hive and anything done to your bees could affect other, innocent, hives. Everyone, **including you** and your pest controller must - by Law - take every reasonable effort to prevent these other hives being affected by what is done to your, unwanted, bees. This, unfortunately, may have significant cost implications.

Preventing Access to Your Treated Bees Nest

Bees are relatively easy to control, but it may be difficult and therefore costly to take all the necessary measures to protect other bees from the control treatment carried out. This will almost certainly include the necessity to seal up the nest entrance and to do this safely may require specialist access equipment.

Removing Treated Honey Combs

It is strongly advised that the honey combs made by your bees be removed, as the honey they contain will eventually leak out and could cause significant damage to your property. However, depending on where they are, this work may involve a builder or roofer to get to them and to make good your property afterwards.

These honey combs will also be contaminated with insecticide, so must - by Law - be disposed of by incineration, using a Licensed Waste Contractor.

Your pest controller may be able to arrange for this extra work to be done, but this will inevitably lead to additional costs.

Code of Practice

Your pest controller will be working within the constraints of a **“Code of Practice Relating to the Control of Feral Honey Bees”**. If you would like to see a copy of this, contact the National Pest Technicians Association, whose details are below.

We apologise for having to bring you this unwelcome news, but we all have a responsibility to protect these important creatures wherever we can. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to speak to someone to discuss this further, please contact the National Pest Technicians Association and we will be happy to help you any way we can.



National Pest Technicians Association

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