

Unwelcome Visitors Bees and Wasps

On your property?

The Council does not deal with wasps, bumble bees, or bees on private land.

If you have a problem with bees or wasps on your property, you will need to arrange for their removal.

Public property?

If bees or wasps are nesting on public property, contact us and we will remove them.

We can only do so once a nest has been formed - we can't do anything while bees are swarming. In built-up areas we can arrange warning signs.

Contact our Customer Services on 0800 965 468.



If you must approach a bee or wasp nest, do so with caution, wear secure eye protection and heavy clothing covering all skin including your head, face, neck, arms, hands, legs and feet.

Try to avoid bees or wasps especially if they are swarming on the road and educate children to do the same. This is something bees and wasps do in a bid to find warmth. In the evening when temperatures cool, they generally move on and settle elsewhere.

It is worth noting that bees are generally docile and will not harm you if left undisturbed, so do not attempt to:

- hose bees; or
- smoke them out of their resting place.

Swarming

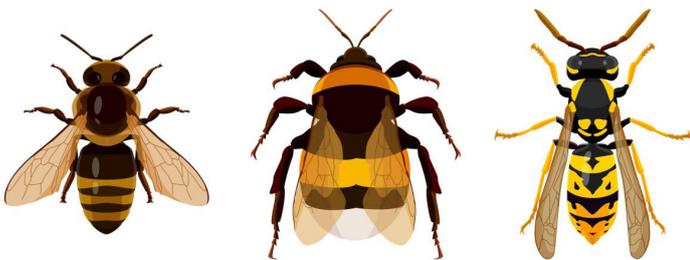
Swarming is a natural behaviour for bees which occurs when overcrowded hives split to form new hives. This is generally between October and December.

If you are, or may be, allergic to wasp or bee stings, seek professional advice prior to approaching a bee or wasp nest.

Caution!

Bees or wasps should not be tackled without professional help or without a sound knowledge of the risks.

Cover up if you are approaching bees and wasps!



honey bee

bumble bee

wasp

Swarms often temporarily settle on trees or buildings resting en route to a new home but if you are at all concerned they intend to stay, you can do the following:

Honey bees

For honey bees, contact a local swarm collector or bee keeper. You will find contact details with a quick search on the internet.

Be aware there may be a charge to remove the swarm.

Beekeepers will not necessarily introduce the swarm into their own hives because of the risk of infection.

Bumble bees

Bumble bees are semi-solitary insects whose queens hibernate during winter and emerge in the spring to establish nests.

If they are not causing a problem, it is best to leave them alone. The nests build up during the summer and about March/April when they produce a new batch of queens and naturally die out.

If you feel it necessary, a pest control company can remove troublesome bumble bees. There may be a charge for this.

Wasps

To find the nest, search near dawn or dusk on sunny days, the low light angles will highlight the flight path as wasps enter and leave the nest. For wasps you can either destroy the nest yourself if you feel comfortable doing so, or bring in a pest control company.

If you decide to deal with the nest yourself:

- Never disturb it during daylight hours
- Don't shine your torch into the nest or wasps will fly up the beam
- Sprinkle Permethrin or Carbaryl dusts over the entrance at dusk or at night. (You can get Permethrin or Carbaryl from local garden centres, hardware stores or supermarkets.)
- Follow safety instructions supplied with the insecticide
- Do not use kerosene or petrol to eradicate a wasp nest because of the risk of fire or explosion
- If you are, or may be, allergic to wasp or bee stings it is always best to use a professional.

CAUTION!

Cover up if you are approaching bees and wasps.



Honey bee swarm



Bumble bee nest in garden



Wasp nest entrance

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.