

COMMON WASP

VESPULA VULGARIS

A quick ID for the Common, Yellow Jacket Wasp.

If in doubt, contact a trained and professional Pest Technician.



DESCRIPTION

Larva

- Larva (grubs) are cylindrical and contained within the cells which make up the combs of the nest.
- They acquire all their nutrients from the workers.

Pupa

- When the grubs pupate they will spin a silken cap over the end of the cell and pupate in-situ.

Adults

- Between 12-15mm long.
- The head bears a distinctive anchor pattern.
- Adults will scour nearby plants for sources of protein while the nest is in growth, themselves feeding on the 'honey-dew' secreted by the larva

DEVELOPMENT

Larva	The larva take 5 moults to reach pupation taking on average 25 days.
Pupa	The pupa then take 8-18 days to completely metamorphose from larva to adult.
Adult	The adults will emerge either as a workers, drones or queen depending on the time of year and maturity of the nest.

- A moderate-sized nest will produce roughly 1000 or more queens depending on the success of the nest.
- The head bears a distinctive anchor pattern.
- Adults will scour nearby plants for sources of protein while the nest is in growth, themselves feeding on the 'honey-dew' secreted by the larva.

POTENTIAL ISSUES

- **Allergic Reactions:** Stings can trigger severe allergic reactions or anaphylaxis in some people.
- **Property Damage:** Some wasps, like paper wasps, build nests that can damage structures.
- **Aggressive Behavior:** Wasps can become aggressive, especially when their nests are disturbed.
- **Nesting Near Homes:** Nests built near homes pose a risk to people and pets.

SIGNS OF INFESTATION

Wasps undergo a complete metamorphosis, meaning that control of the adult workers alone will not solve an infestation, nests must be located and controlled entirely.



V.vulgaris will nest underground as readily as they will at height, under tiles or similar voids so specialist equipment often needs to be employed to ensure nests are treated adequately.

DIET

Larva foodstuff.

The common wasp larva's diet of high-protein food sources is collected by the adults and then fed to the larva in the comb. The larvae need the protein to grow and mature into adult wasps. Without a sufficient supply of protein, the larvae will not be able to survive

Adult foodstuff.

As the larva do not need to use all the carbohydrates found in their food they will regurgitate a portion of this resource to feed the adults.