

# Fleas



## Do you have fleas?

The sign of a flea infestation in the home is bites around the occupant's ankles.

## Why you might have fleas

The most common source of fleas in the home is pets, particularly cats and dogs.

If you don't have pets, fleas can be picked up from many locations, other peoples' homes, public buildings, shops, and public transport. This is most likely to occur during the summer months, but can happen at any time.

You could also have inherited a flea problem if you have recently moved into your property.

## What you should do

You can deal with the problem by:

- treating your pet is essential, we recommend that you consult your vet or the PDSA for a prescribed treatment, as these prove to be the most effective
- always grooming your pets out of doors
- paying special attention to pet bedding and favourite resting areas – hot wash pet bedding regularly
- good housekeeping and regular vacuuming of carpets will also help to avoid infestation

## Do we treat this problem?

Yes, we spray the carpets with a water-based insecticidal powder. Please note that there is a charge for this service.

## Do you need to do anything to prepare for the treatment?

Yes, before we visit to treat the problem you should:

- vacuum your entire house (including the furniture)
- throw out the vacuum cleaner bag
- clear as much floor space as possible
- treat your pets

## After the treatment

After we have sprayed:

- if possible go-out for one or two hours to allow the spray to dry
- do not sit on anything that has been sprayed until it has dried
- do not let children or pets, especially cats, on the carpets until they are dry

It will still seem as if you are infested for a while. This is because, even though the insecticide is killing fleas, more will be hatching-out. Flea eggs can take up to six weeks to hatch out in the home environment, so although you will find a lot fewer fleas after being treated, you can still expect to see some for several weeks.

To avoid re-infestation, follow the information in the section "What you should do" above and try to avoid vacuuming for as long as possible after the treatment as the insecticide will be removed by doing this. We suggest you do not vacuum for ten days in order to allow the treatment to be effective. The member of staff will leave an information leaflet with you to explain this.

## More information

Go to [www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/677.html](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/677.html) or call Pest Control on 023 9283 4251.

You can get all Portsmouth City Council information in large print, Braille, tape or translated by calling 023 9283 4251.

For translated information, please call:

- the Bengali answerphone service on 023 9284 1651
- the Cantonese answerphone service on 023 9284 1652

樸茨茅斯市政府的一切資料，均備有翻譯本、大字畫刊或映音帶，如有需要，請致電 023 9284 1652

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