



ADVICE ON THE CONTROL OF FLEAS



APPERANCES

Three species are known to be found in dwellings:

- The Human Flea (*Pulex Irritans*)
- The Cat Flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*)
- The Dog Flea (*Ctenocephalides canis*)

All three of these fleas are small insects about 2mm in length, they are reddish or chestnut brown in colour. Their extreme thinness (or lateral compression) and their backwardly-pointing spines allows them to move easily through carpeting, fur etc. They have muscular legs and all three of these fleas are good jumpers up to a height of 12 - 15cm. It is difficult to see the difference between these three types of fleas without the aid of magnification.

LIFECYCLE

Pearly-white eggs about the size of a pinhead can be laid in clothing, furnishings, carpets etc. Four to eight eggs are laid after each blood meal and the total may reach several hundred. The eggs hatch into larvae about 1.5mm in length, growing to 5mm before they pupate. They generally feed on organic debris and waste food. Three stages of larvae growth occur before pupation. The pupa turns from creamy-white to a brownish colour. The final change or metamorphosis from pupa to adult emerging flea is dependent upon a host causing vibrations of the pupae cocoon. Vibrations from a person's footsteps on floorboards carpets are sufficient to cause the fleas to break through the cocoons to seek their new host. The eggs hatch within about one week at normal room temperature. In centrally-heated houses the life cycle would be completed in about 30 days, but in cold rooms (10°C) the life cycle will be prolonged, taking about 100 days for completion.

Advisory Note for Householders Flea Control

The following advice is given to householders to assist Eco Solutions Pest Control in carrying out an effective treatment to eradicate flea infestations. The insecticide used by Eco Solutions will stay active for up to 6 months. It will take up to 6 hours to dry from the time of application. However, once dried, it does not present a danger to pets, children or adults. To ensure the elimination of fleas at your home you will assist by doing the following BEFORE our pest technician calls at your home to carry out the treatment.

1. Remove all toys, decorative items and other items from the floor so that all areas of the floor can be treated.
2. Remove all articles from under beds, on cupboard floors and from under furniture as these are areas where fleas live and need to be treated thoroughly.
3. Vacuum all floors and upholstered furniture to remove hair, organic debris, fleas, flea eggs and pupae.
4. Remove vacuum cleaner bags after vacuuming and dispose in waste bin or plastic bag outside.
5. If appropriate, take your pet to a vet for treatment.



Following the spraying of the insecticide :

- 1) Do Not allow your pet back into the house or your young children to reenter the house until the insecticide has dried. Allow up to 3 hours for the insecticide to dry.
- 2) Do Not vacuum for at least 10 days after the treatment. This will give the insecticide time to eliminate all stages of the flea infestation.

After the treatment, you may see a few fleas for a day or two but be patient as these will be eliminated in a short period of time. If you continue to see fleas after 21 days and you have not vacuumed, the insecticide should still be active. However, if the infestation is quite severe, then contact Eco Solutions Pest Control again to seek further advice.