

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY



ISSUE **139**

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06

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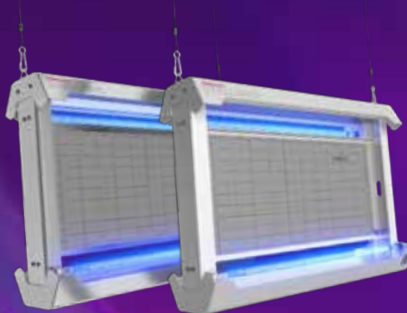
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Bitesize...

Mice of Great Britain

06

Britain's mouse species - house, wood, yellow-necked wood, and harvest mice - require precise identification in pest control to meet legal guidelines. The wood mouse, for instance, thrives in woodlands and caches food, while dormice need special handling. Proper control methods focus on exclusion and humane traps, balancing control with ecosystem care.

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Killgerm Group announce strategic investment

Killgerm Group is proud to announce a strategic investment as PestWest Electronics has completed its move into a modern & high specification operational base at Symphony House at Wakefield 41 industrial park.

The new operation centre includes a new, dedicated manufacturing section complete with new racking throughout. Also based at Symphony House is the PestWest R&D team and the supporting Supply Chain team, with several meeting rooms and product development areas.

Commenting on the announcement, Rupert Broome, Group Managing Director of Killgerm Group said: "This expansion will enable our PestWest team to greatly increase production of several of our most popular new products, including our world-leading LED range of fly traps based on our exclusive Quantum X technology and it provides our strong team with the perfect base as we embark on our next phase of growth. All of which makes it a very exciting time for PestWest."



ICUP conference

The Organising Committee of the 11th International Conference on Urban Pests (ICUP) extended the deadline date to 30 October 2024 for submission of abstracts.

The 11th ICUP conference will take place from 29 June to 2 July 2025 at AF-Borgen, the Academic Society (Akademiska Föreningen) building in Lund, southern Sweden.

All those keen to present a paper or poster at this event will now have submitted an abstract of their proposed presentation via the abstract portal on the ICUP 2025 website at www.icup.org.uk/icup-2025.

Abstracts were sought of work that makes a significant contribution to urban pest science. The abstract is not for publication, but simply for initial consideration by the ICUP committee.

Potential presenters will be informed by 15 November, of the acceptance of their abstract, or a suggestion to move an oral presentation to a poster (or the reverse), or rejection of the proposed abstract.

For accepted talks, final manuscripts will be required by the end of January 2025. highlight urban areas as environments where biodiversity is perceived as both an opportunity and a threat. In these areas, citizens are in close contact with other species, so quickly develop technologies that shape the relationship between humans and these other species. To reflect this, ICUP 2025 will have a general theme of 'Smart and Sustainable Management of Urban Animals.'

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Martin Nilsson appointed Managing Director for Killgerm Scandinavia

Martin Nilsson has been promoted as the new Managing Director for Killgerm Scandinavia, effective from 1st September 2024.

Martin started working in Killgerm Scandinavia (formerly Milluck AB) 14 years ago, and he has been instrumental in supporting our Scandinavian customers on several fronts over those years.

Martin has an intimate knowledge of the current operations in Scandinavia, and his appointment will bring a new focus and impetus to the future growth of the Killgerm operations in the region. Commenting on the appointment, Rupert Broome, Group Managing Director of Killgerm Group, said "Martin has been a key part of our Scandinavian operations for many years

and he has impressed with his dedication and enthusiasm to drive Killgerm Scandinavia to the next level. Martin has the support of all the Killgerm family to help him to achieve his goals." In return, Martin said "I am delighted that my skills have been recognised within the Killgerm family and I have great ambitions for our Killgerm Scandinavian operations over the next few years."

Martin is taking over the role of Managing Director from his father, Per Nilsson. Milluck AB was formed by Per in 2007 and since then the business has grown to become the leading supplier to the professional pest control market in Scandinavia. In 2019, Milluck became part of the Killgerm family of operations, joining Europe's largest network of suppliers to the professional pest control sector.

Although Martin is now taking on the responsibility for leading Killgerm Scandinavia, Per remains an important support role for Martin within the business, ensuring that continuity and excellent service remains at the heart of everything which Killgerm Scandinavia does.

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Squirrel on a plane

A Frontier Airlines flight from Orlando to Cleveland faced an unusual two-hour delay when a passenger tried to bring a squirrel on board as her emotional support animal. Though she had noted an emotional support animal in her reservation, she failed to mention it was a squirrel - an animal banned under the airline's policy that prohibits rodents.

When the woman refused to leave with her furry companion, police were called, and both were escorted off the plane. All passengers had to disembark and reboard, adding to the delay. This incident joins a growing list of emotional support animal mishaps, including a peacock and a hamster, sparking debate over airline policies on the matter.

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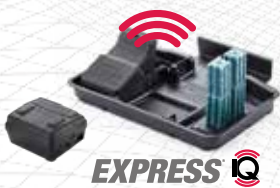
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Mice of Great Britain

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Pest Control News summarises a fascinating presentation, all about Mice of Great Britain, given by highly qualified and experienced industry technical manager/trainer Melvin Knapp.

Why do we need to know about the different species of mice in Great Britain? The days of simply writing 'mouse activity found' on a technician's report are gone. Especially now that rodenticide labels state the specific target rodent species the product is authorised for. We also know that rodents don't just simply change their identity once they step over the threshold of our customers property! As professionals, the need to recognise the species of mice we encounter is essential if we are to remain on the right side of the law.



Mus musculus skull showing notch on incisors. Photo by Avril Turner

As an introductory reminder, rodents are of the Order Rodentia – noting that the Latin word 'Rodere' means 'to gnaw'. A feature common to rodents is that their incisors grow continually throughout their life. Rodents are the largest order of mammals, making up approximately 40% of mammal species, so they absolutely deserve our respect. Of course, the commensal (to share one's table) rodents, i.e. pest species, are our main concern.

Of the Muridae family, we have sub-families Arvicolinae (voles) and Murinae (the rats and mice). There are 4 species of mice in the sub-family Murinae found in Britain, the house mouse, (*Mus musculus*), the wood mouse, *Apodemus sylvaticus*, the yellow necked wood mouse, *Apodemus flavicollis* and the harvest mouse, *Micromys minutus*. All rodents in this family have 3 cheek teeth (molars) each side of their upper and lower jaws.

A discussion about wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus* is very pertinent right now, especially with rodenticide labels in mind (there are currently no anticoagulant rodenticides with approval for use on *Apodemus* spp.) and residues of anticoagulants in birds of prey (wood mice are however known to consume anticoagulant baits and then be taken by barn owls *Tyto alba*).

First stop, we need to recognise them...

The wood mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*, also known as the long-tailed field mouse is a native species which has been present in Britain since the last ice age (Pleistocene era), it has large prominent ears, large hind legs and a yellowish patch on the chest. The name Wood mouse is apt as its scientific name 'Apodemus' is Greek for 'away from home' and 'sylvaticus' meaning 'belonging to the woods'. This name is also apt for its habitat as they are abundant in woodland, found in gardens, road verges, hedgerows and parks. Their diet is varied and includes seeds, nuts, berries, fungi, insects and molluscs. A key behaviour of theirs is to cache food which we shall

cover later, as it is a key sign for identification of wood mouse activity and we have some images to show. A physical feature of identification versus house mice is a notch in the incisors for house mice, the 1st molar also has 3 roots unlike wood mice incisors which do not have a notch and the 1st molar has 4 roots. Even if only skeletal remains are found and the teeth are absent, there will be either 3 or 4 root holes in the skull enabling us to identify the species.

How do we know that barn owls take wood mice?

Well, fragments of wood mice are found in owl pellets!

Some interesting facts and figures about wood mice are that they are active throughout the year and a pre-breeding population of 38 million grows to an estimated 114 million in Autumn! There are certainly plenty of them and this abundance makes it even more important to recognise/identify their activity.

Currently, there is one cholecalciferol bait authorised for use against *Apodemus sylvaticus*, the closely related yellow-necked wood mouse *Apodemus flavicollis* is not. The yellow-necked wood mouse (flavicollis meaning 'yellow collar') is larger than the wood mouse. The head and body length combined is 9-12cm, with an 8-11cm tail. The orange-brown fur with a white flank, has a yellow band or 'collar' under the neck (versus the small streak of yellow for the wood mouse). The diet is similar to the wood mouse and both species cache food. Common in south-east England, the yellow-necked wood mouse has an estimated UK population of 750,000.

Evidence of *Apodemus* spp activity

In terms of signs and evidence, what can we look for to spot *Apodemus* spp activity?





Droppings in external bait stations are a sign of *Apodemus* spp activity and remember that house mice are active predominantly indoors, whereas the wood mice are active indoors and outdoors. Wood mouse droppings are typically slightly larger (usually 3-5mm long) than those of house mice and more rounded.

Cached food and covering over of bait are also signs of *Apodemus* spp. Here we see stones have been dragged into the bait station to cover over food/bait. Norway rats will occasionally do this but it is a rather reliable sign of *Apodemus* spp. activity – however, never rely on a single sign in isolation. Remember to consider various pieces of evidence.

What are the reasons for control of wood mice?

Wood mice do gnaw and cause damage to electrical cables, wooden items, leave droppings and urine as potential contaminants to food and food contact surfaces. They are certainly a nuisance factor when they enter buildings.

They can be the prevalent mice indoors in some regions and have a nuisance factor. One Local Authority reported >85% *Apodemus* sp mouse call-outs in domestic properties. The majority of these domestic properties were built between 1950 & 1990.

Control-ERD Principle

As per familiar aspects of rodent control, the ERD principle applies here.

- Exclusion
- Proofing
- Restriction
- Housekeeping
- Stacking
- Destruction
- Breakback traps
- Non-SGAR approved rodenticide

The case for control on *Apodemus* sp. indoors is clear and these options have just been laid out.

Although wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus* are on the label as a target species for a cholecalciferol rodenticide bait, with permitted use around buildings we should be mindful that this species of native mouse is not likely to be a threat to public health outdoors and that other wildlife such as stoats, weasels, and birds of prey rely on them as a food source. As professionals we should only target wood mice where we have a justified reason to do so. Just because we can doesn't always mean we should...



Other species

The Harvest Mouse, *Micromys minutus* Britain's smallest mammal with adults weighing 6g. They have a distinctive, blunt nose, small eyes and white flank. Their prehensile tail acts as a '5th limb' making them exceptional climbers enabling them to easily traverse tall grasses or cereal crops where they build their nests from woven grass, Harvest mice are found mostly in central and southern England from central Yorkshire southwards where arable farmland is more prevalent. There is an estimated population of 1,425,000 harvest mice in the UK. Harvest mice are found exclusively outdoors and are of no concern from a public health perspective. Whilst encountering evidence of harvest mice in public health pest control is unlikely, the loss of open area use on anticoagulant rodenticide labels will further minimise the potential risk of this species encountering such rodenticides.

Dormice, belong to the Family Gliridae and can be distinguished by their furry tail. Dormice have 4 cheek teeth as they possess a premolar tooth in addition to their 3 molar teeth. In Great Britain we have 2 species of dormice, one native and one introduced.

The hazel dormouse, *Muscardinus avellanarius* is native to Britain and protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They weigh 15-26g and have orange-brown fur with a bushy tail. They are nocturnal and hibernate from October-May. They favour deciduous woodland, hedgerows and coppice, particularly hazel, sweet chestnut, brambles and honeysuckle. Estimated UK population 45,000.

The fat dormouse, *Glis glis* (also commonly known as 'the edible dormouse') resembles a grey squirrel with silvery-grey fur and bushy tail but smaller with larger eyes. It was introduced in Britain in 1902 from a private wildlife collection in Tring, Hertfordshire. This species is arboreal, meaning (tree dwelling). This is unfortunate for residents around Tring, as the roof spaces of their properties make an ideal substitute for a tree where they become a nuisance and create damage. Although not protected by domestic UK legislation *Glis glis* are protected under international legislation known as The Bern Convention. Therefore, a class licence (CL02) must be obtained from Natural England to trap this species. When trapping under a class licence an approved spring trap must be used in accordance with the Spring Traps Approval (England) Order 2018. Despite the release of this non-native species being a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, *Glis glis* have been recorded outside of Hertfordshire including Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. We can only assume that *Glis glis* have learnt to drive and are heading down the M4!

How to Market Pest Control Services to Property Managers

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When it comes to pest control, property managers have a lot on their plate. Whether it's residential or commercial buildings, they need quick, reliable solutions to keep their tenants happy and properties pest-free. A tailored marketing approach is key to grabbing their attention and securing long-term business. Here's how you can market pest control services to property managers effectively.

Sell the Benefits of Infestation Prevention

No property manager wants to deal with a pest infestation, so prevention is a huge selling point. Market your services as proactive, not just reactive.

You can:

- **Educate** property managers on how regular inspections and preventative treatments stop infestations before they happen.
- **Explain** how a pest-free property leads to fewer tenant complaints and happier residents.
- **Highlight** how proactive pest control can help meet regulations and avoid potential fines.

Promote Long-Term Contracts and Regular Maintenance

Property managers aren't just looking for one-off treatments; they want a long-term partner. Offering ongoing maintenance contracts can be a game-changer. Explain how a long-term contract means:

- Consistent, scheduled inspections and treatments.
- Cost savings over time, as prevention is cheaper than dealing with big infestations.
- Reduced complaints from tenants because you're keeping pests away before they become an issue.

Pitch these contracts as an easy, stress-free way for property managers to keep their buildings pest-free year-round. Position yourself as the pest control

company that helps property managers avoid headaches down the road.

Focus on Fast Response Times

One of the biggest concerns for property managers is handling tenant complaints about pest issues—and they need a quick solution. Highlight how fast your team can respond, especially for emergencies. Here's how you can emphasise your speedy service:

- Showcase 24/7 availability.
- Provide average response times (e.g., "We're on-site within 2 hours!").
- Include testimonials or examples where you've solved urgent pest problems and saved the day for other property managers.

Being the pest control company that's always ready to act fast will give property managers peace of mind.

Use Targeted Digital Marketing

You've got to meet property managers where they are — and that's online. A solid digital marketing strategy will help you get noticed:

- **SEO:** Make sure your website is optimised for search terms like "pest control for property managers" or "commercial pest control services."
- **Email Campaigns:** Create targeted email content that highlights the benefits of long-term contracts, success stories from other property managers, and special offers for new clients.
- **Social Media:** Property managers often use LinkedIn for professional



networking. Share tips on pest prevention, updates on your services, and case studies to show you're the expert in the field.

- **Being visible online** with the right messaging will make it easier for property managers to find and trust your services.

Tailor Your Solutions to Different Property Types

Every property is different, and so are its pest control needs. Whether it's a large commercial building or a small residential complex, tailor your services to meet specific challenges:

- For residential properties, focus on pests like rodents, bedbugs, or ants, which are common in homes.
- For commercial properties, target solutions for businesses like restaurants or offices, where hygiene and compliance are critical.
- Highlight how your approach varies based on the type of building and common pests in that area.

This customisation shows property managers that you understand their specific challenges and have the right solutions for their properties.

Use Testimonials and Case Studies

Nothing builds trust like real-world success stories. Use testimonials from other property managers you've worked with to show you can deliver results. Here's how:

- **Include testimonials** on your website and marketing materials that focus on how you've helped other property managers keep their buildings pest-free.
- **Create case studies** showing specific examples where your quick response or preventative measures stopped a major pest problem.
- **Use photos and real data** where possible to back up your claims.

These stories give property managers the confidence that you can handle their pest control needs too.

Network and Build Relationships

Networking is a great way to connect with property managers and build lasting relationships. Get involved in property management circles by:

- Attending industry events, expos, or property management association meetings.
- Hosting or sponsoring pest prevention workshops or webinars that provide valuable advice to property managers.
- Offering referral incentives for property managers who bring in new business or recommend your services to their peers.

Strong relationships can lead to more referrals and long-term contracts, so don't underestimate the power of networking.

Offer Educational Resources

Property managers love valuable information, especially if it helps them manage their buildings better. Create educational content like:

- Blog posts or guides on preventing common pest issues in residential and commercial properties.
- Infographics that make it easy to understand pest prevention strategies.
- Email newsletters with seasonal pest control tips and advice on keeping their properties pest-free.

By providing helpful content, you establish yourself as a knowledgeable partner who's looking out for their best interests.

Conclusion

Marketing pest control services to property managers is all about focusing on what matters most to them – fast, reliable service, long-term solutions, and prevention. Whether through digital marketing, networking, or sharing success stories, you can build trust and become the go-to pest control provider for property managers looking to keep their tenants happy and their buildings pest-free.

Asian hornet sightings - a timeline:



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Twenty *Vespa velutina* nests have been found in 2024 so far.

(time of writing – October 2024)

August 2024

- Following continued operations in Lydden, Kent a second nest was located on 23rd August. This will be destroyed and removed.
- On **28th August** a nest was found in Temple Ewell and on **29th August** a nest was found in Goodnestone. A primary nest was found in a BBQ in Elham on **29th August**, and a secondary nest was found in an ash tree on **30th August** in the same area. All of these locations are in Kent. These nests will be destroyed and removed.
- The NBU has responded to a credible sighting in Hastings, East Sussex which is close to where a nest was located in Barham earlier this year.
- A location in Ardingly, West Sussex is also being monitored in response to a credible sighting.
- Surveillance is ongoing at 3 other locations in Kent and in Hastings, East Sussex, where a primary nest was found last month.

September 2024

East Sussex:

- The NBU responded to credible reports in Rye Harbour. Following active operations, a primary nest was found on 7th September, and a secondary nest was found on 9th September. Both nests have been destroyed and removed.

Kent

- Following coverage of the NBU's work with yellow-legged hornet on BBC Southeast, a credible report was received of 2 suspect nests in Lydd on 7th September. The reporter had been suspicious of the nests they had spotted in an allotment and following watching the BBC coverage were able to correctly identify the nests. The NBU confirmed that these were yellow-legged hornet nests (primary and secondary) on **8th September**. Both nests have been destroyed and removed.
- The NBU is monitoring an area near **Swingfield, Kent**, in response to a credible sighting of yellow-legged hornet.

East Sussex, West Sussex & Kent

- Post nest destruction monitoring has been completed at 16 of 17 nest sites. All nests have been destroyed and removed and are with the lab for analysis.
- The NBU will continue to respond to any new credible reports.

Hampshire

- The NBU responded to a credible YLH sighting on 15th September in **Southampton** and located a nest on 20th September. This will be destroyed and removed.

October 2024

The National Bee Unit are continuing to monitor areas in **Southampton, Hampshire** and **Great Maxfield, East Sussex** where nests were previously located and destroyed.

20 nests have been found this year. On 16th October the National Bee Unit (NBU) located a nest in Great Maxfield, East Sussex. It is suspected that this is a tertiary nest associated with the nest which was destroyed on 26th September in this area. The nest has been destroyed, removed and sent for analysis.

We would be grateful for your support in helping to raise awareness and encourage reporting of any further sightings. Alert posters and ID sheets are available to help, please see the Asian hornet alert page for details.

Any suspected sightings should ideally be reported via the Asian hornet watch app or the online reporting form. For more details on identification and reporting please visit the Asian hornet alert page.

More information and information on previous sightings can be found on the website of the National Bee Unit.

www.nationalbeeunit.com



Study shows: Non-professional insecticide sprays fail to control cockroaches in the USA.



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Amateur-use pyrethroid residual sprays provide “little to no value” against German cockroach infestations, researchers say.

Press release from the ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Reported in August 2024 – A common variety of consumer insecticide sprays is mostly ineffective and of “little to no value” in eliminating cockroach infestations, a new study shows (PCN Tech ed: even more reason to seek out professional pest controllers with access to gel baits!).

Residual insecticides are designed to be sprayed on surfaces where cockroaches are likely to appear, exposing them to the toxic ingredient when they move across the surface later. But laboratory testing by researchers at the University of Kentucky and Auburn University shows that the residues have little effect on German cockroaches (*Blattella germanica*), a primary species infesting homes and buildings around the world.

The study found that liquid and aerosol sprays using pyrethroid insecticides killed less than 20 percent of German cockroaches that were exposed to sprayed surfaces for 30 minutes. Moreover, even when cockroaches were confined to the sprayed surfaces, most products took eight to 24 hours to kill the cockroaches, with some taking up to five days. Published August 14 in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*, the study tested the sprays on German cockroaches that had been collected from real-world infestations, where the insects have evolved resistance to pyrethroids, previous research shows.

“If residents do not have access to effective professional pest control or consumer solutions, they continue to be impacted by the effects of an infestation, including the health risks associated with cockroach allergens. Home is where people should be able to relax and feel comfortable,” says Johnalyn Gordon, Ph.D., lead author on the study and a postdoctoral associate at the University of Florida. Gordon conducted the study while a graduate research assistant at the University of Kentucky in the lab of Zach DeVries, Ph.D., assistant professor of urban entomology and senior author on the study. Their study was supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Cockroach control, while challenging at times, is obtainable, the researchers say, but it typically is time intensive and costly in terms of products applied. A key problem is that German cockroaches are almost universally resistant to pyrethroids.

“Due to the frequent use of pyrethroid-based residual products, it is very likely that German cockroaches inside of homes will have some degree of pyrethroid resistance,” Gordon says. “To the best of our knowledge,

a pyrethroid-susceptible German cockroach population has not been documented from the field in decades.”

However, current requirements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency do not require insecticide products to be tested on cockroaches recently collected from the field or with demonstrated insecticide resistance.

“Hopefully studies like this one can drive changes in product testing and evaluation, so that labels accurately reflect the level of control these products can provide,” Gordon says.

Additional factors likely contribute to the poor performance of the residual spray products, such as surface type and cockroach behavior. Gordon and colleagues tested the sprays on painted drywall, ceramic tile, and stainless steel and found that they performed significantly worse on drywall. Even a population of cockroaches without resistance to pyrethroids that was included in the study was minimally affected by the residual sprays on drywall. “This suggests that how porous a surface is may have a significant impact on product efficacy,” Gordon says. “Given common applications of residual insecticides along baseboards, reduced efficacy on painted drywall was a particularly striking finding.”

Meanwhile, cockroaches are unlikely to come to rest for extended periods on surfaces treated with insecticides, both because they are often on the move and because they may actively avoid them. A separate study in DeVries’ lab published last year found resistant German cockroaches will not remain in contact with pyrethroid-treated surfaces for an extended period time, if given the choice.

Combined, these factors paint a dim picture for cockroach control via insecticide sprays. “Based on our results, pyrethroid-based DIY products are likely to fail against German cockroaches inside the home, especially if they are being used as residual products,” Gordon says.

More promising DIY options for cockroach control include gel or liquid baits, which attract roaches to a food source laden with a slow-acting insecticide, Gordon says. Ideally, consumers could also have access to affordable professional pest-control services that take a multipronged approach known as integrated pest management, or IPM. However, this is often not the case for residents of low-income, multi-family housing, where cockroach infestations are often stubbornly persistent.

“There is a strong base of knowledge and research on how we can control cockroaches, but there are numerous economic and procedural barriers that mean that this control is not occurring in these areas, arguably where it is the most needed,” Gordon says. “Targeting improved technologies that can close these management gaps is really critical to achieving accessible pest management, whether that is through different active ingredients and modes of action, formulations, or product-deployment strategies.”

CRRU UK release new version of the Code of Best Practice with a focus on rodents

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July 2024 saw the release of the new version of the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice 'Best Practice and Guidance for Rodent Control and the Safe Use of Rodenticides'. This is the 3rd version of the code since its release in March 2015 and update in July 2021.

The new version, featuring important updates is available here:
<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads>

With numerous changes, it is important to keep up-to-date and follow the code (which is referenced on rodenticide product labels). Helpfully, the code has a table signposting the changes for readers. In this article, we tackle some of the major changes to the code.

Availability of FGAR baits in the UK

There are currently no rodenticide baits available for use in the UK that contain first-generation anticoagulants as their active ingredients. (only a contact foam).

Availability of SGAR baits for use away from buildings

From the 1st January 2025, no products containing a second-generation anticoagulant as an active ingredient may be used away from a building.

Clarification on use pattern of cholecalciferol baits

Some baits containing cholecalciferol are permitted for use against wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*). However, they are not authorised for use against the closely related yellow-necked mouse (*A. flavicollis*) and care should be exercised to ensure that this species is not inadvertently exposed to cholecalciferol baits.

Some products containing cholecalciferol are authorised for use in 'open areas' and at 'waste dumps'.

Updated wording reference in and around buildings

"In and around buildings" is defined as:

'In and around buildings' is understood to include the entire building that is the subject of the treatment, or those areas of it that are or may become infested. It also includes the infested area around the building that needs to be treated in order to deal with the rodents that are

potentially moving into the building, causing damage to the building or property, or present a risk to the health of people or other animals. The term 'outdoors – around buildings' is now the officially authorised use and is seen on some product labels and in regulatory documents.

Definition of a building for the purpose of rodent pest management

For the purposes of rodent pest management a building is typically considered to be a permanent fixed structure forming an enclosure and providing protection from the elements. Buildings can be used to exclude certain non-target animals and birds from taking baits placed inside. They are usually erected on foundations, largely enclosed and constructed from wood, brick, concrete or metal. Temporary structures or structures that can easily be moved would not generally be considered to be buildings.

Given the diverse use areas for rodenticide products in this use scenario, it is understood that this may not directly address all situations encountered during practical rodent pest management operations. Cases where temporary structures are erected or moved into open areas to justify continued baiting will not be considered acceptable.

Recognising that these products are only for use by trained professionals, reasonable judgement will be necessary.

Definition of waste dumps

"Waste dumps" are also now considered to be a separate use scenario. Only baits may be applied at waste dumps that permit such use on the label. This scenario covers control of rats and disposal of rats in waste dumps and landfills where the exposure is assumed to be higher than that described in the open area scenario. For example, waste dumps do not include municipal waste management facilities (e.g. recycling centres) where treatment is undertaken to prevent risks to public health in urban settings.

Additional text reference the use of lower strength baits

Some anticoagulant rodenticide active substances are included in products at different concentrations, some higher than others. The principle of the risk hierarchy and the rules of COSHH indicate that baits of lower strength of a given active substance should be used if there is a choice and it is anticipated they will be fully effective. The recommendations of the Rodenticide Resistance Action Group (RRAG) should also be followed. That is that 'lower-strength' baits of a given active substance should be used at sites where it is known, or reasonably expected, that no anticoagulant resistance occurs, and 'higher strength' baits should be employed where resistance is known, or reasonably expected, to be present."



Mark Ward achieves RSPH Level 3 Award in Pest Management



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Congratulations to Mark Ward, Killgerm's Product Development Specialist, on the completion of his RSPH Level 3 Award in Pest Management.

After suffering a stroke in October 2023 while studying, Mark faced the daunting task of not only recovering but also continuing with his education. Instead of stepping back, he found motivation in setting new professional goals, aiming to advance both his knowledge and qualifications.

"The support from Killgerm during my recovery, both personally and in my studying, has been fantastic," Mark said. With their backing, he focused on gaining his RSPH Level 3 award in Pest Management qualification, a challenge involving robust exams and assignments in areas such as chemical and non-chemical pest control. This qualification served as a key milestone in balancing his rehabilitation with career progression.

Reflecting on his journey, Mark emphasised the importance of having goals. "You don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. If you go through life putting things off, you might reach a point where you don't have the opportunity to develop yourself or your career," he remarked. He encourages others to seize the moment and not take things for granted. "If you want to do something, do it. Whether it's a new qualification or starting a business, you never know what's around the corner."

Mark's experience has been a testament to resilience. "Tomorrow might be a bad day, but it might be a good day," he shared, acknowledging the ongoing nature of recovery and the challenges it brings. He believes that maintaining a positive outlook and striving for personal development are crucial, especially during difficult times.

In addition to his recent certification, Mark has ambitious plans for the future. "We're looking at bringing about 30 new products to market by the end of the year, and I'm also pursuing my field biologist qualifications," he shared. Mark is committed to continual learning and professional growth, having already completed several Open University courses in sustainability and renewable energy.

Mark also highlighted the significance of teamwork and innovation in his work. "We've set up an innovations team within Killgerm to bring technical teams from all our sister companies together. This collaborative approach is going to be beneficial not just for Killgerm but for the industry as a whole," he said.

His journey illustrates that even after a life-altering event like a stroke, it's possible to rebuild and thrive. With determination and the right support, Mark is proving that recovery and professional growth can go hand in hand.

To find out more about the Level 3 Award in Pest management, scan the QR to go to the RSPH website.



BugScents™ Sentry Pro: Revolutionising Bed Bug Detection –

A Case Study with Michael Marbe

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In an insightful interview with Michael Marbe, Commercial Pest Team Manager for London Network for Pest Solutions Ltd, we explored the groundbreaking impact of BugScents™ Sentry Pro. After trialling the pheromone-based bed bug detector, Marbe shared how it significantly improved their pest control efforts, catching bed bugs in locations where traditional methods failed.

Marbe first heard about BugScents™ Sentry Pro through direct contact with Adam Obee, Business Development Director for Arctech, and was impressed by the product's unique technology. "It's the first detection system that uses pheromones as an attractant, which really stood out to us. The claims that it could catch bed bug nymphs were also promising, and the science behind it was thoroughly explained to us."

The company had previously used various methods for monitoring, including cardboard corrugated traps and standard sticky monitors. However, when trialling BugScents™ Sentry Pro, the team found it

far superior. Within 48 hours of installation, the device captured bed bugs that were may have been missed by visual inspections and other monitors. In a trial within a sheltered accommodation block, Sentry Pro detected three live bed bugs after other methods had failed to find any. "Without the Sentry Pro, we would have given that area a clear visit, but the device revealed there was still activity."

Although the Sentry Pro units take slightly longer to set up compared to traditional monitors, Marbe emphasised the benefits: "The extra time spent installing them is definitely worth it. We catch more bugs and save

bug scents™

Sentry Pro




Designed by our team of scientists, every millimetre of the bugscents™ monitor has been built with bed bugs in mind, from the colour and texture to the size of the opening.

Layered, wafer-thin design allows discreet placement.



Replaceable glue insert catches bed bugs on their backs.



Bed bugs can enter from all four sides, allowing full flexibility in placement.

The monitor has 60 'channels' that guide bed bugs to be caught inside.



time on clearing areas that would otherwise need further investigation. It's efficient and reliable."

Marbe highlighted that the device's cost could be a consideration, but its accuracy and reliability made it an invaluable tool. Over a 90-day period, BugScents™ provided peace of mind by confirming no further bed bug activity in problem areas. "The value of this device is in the confidence it gives both to our team and to the residents we serve. It has allowed us to confidently declare properties bed bug-free after persistent issues."

In terms of comparative performance, BugScents™ Sentry Pro surpassed other monitors, often catching three to four times as many bed bugs as their counterparts during side-by-side trials. "We tested it alongside the standard sticky monitors and, on average, the Sentry Pro consistently outperformed them. In some cases, we were only catching on the BugScents™ units, which clearly demonstrates its effectiveness."

The device has also proved invaluable for post-treatment monitoring. "It's allowed us to monitor specific areas and rule out potential problem spots, and it's helped in effectively monitoring communal areas as well. This has been crucial in preventing reinfestations."

In closing, Marbe praised the potential of BugScents™ Sentry Pro to transform the pest control industry: "Without overstating it, I truly believe this has the potential to revolutionise bed bug monitoring. It's far more effective than anything we've tried before. If adopted more widely, it could change the way we approach bed bug management."

The case study showcases how BugScents™ Sentry Pro has become a pivotal tool for London Network for Pest Solutions Ltd, offering an effective, science-based solution for tackling bed bug infestations. For pest control professionals across the UK, it represents a significant advancement in bed bug detection technology.

Asian hornet nest identification

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Asian hornets produce two types of nest, primary and secondary.



Primary nests

- Spherical with a small entrance hole at the base, usually 5 to 10cm in diameter.
- Built in spring by a lone Asian Hornet Queen, usually in a protected place such as brambles, a hedgerow, or in/on a building.

Secondary nests

- Pear-shaped, entrance hole halfway up the nest, up to 60 cm wide x 80 cm tall.
- Usually found in trees, may also be in buildings and hedges.
- Use binoculars to identify secondary nests from a safe distance. Do not disturb suspected nests and retreat from any wasp / hornet nests if flying insects are observed.

All primary wasp and hornet nests look similar, only report primary nests if seen with Asian hornets. To identify a nest, watch for insects from a safe distance.



Primary nest. All primary wasp and hornet nests look similar. Only report if seen with Asian Hornets.



Secondary nest in a tree canopy



Secondary nest in a hedge



Secondary nest in a building

ALERT!

Report sightings of Asian hornet and suspected nests: with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
Online at nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet
By email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Report Asian hornet



Find an AHT



Identifying nests of similar species

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Secondary Asian hornet nests may be confused with other wasp and hornet nests, or objects in trees. If you suspect you have seen an Asian hornet nest, please use binoculars to check from a safe distance before reporting. See previous page for details of where to report nests and how to get help with identifying a potential nest.

Asian hornet *Vespa Velutina*
Secondary nest

- Usually found in trees, may also be in buildings or hedges
- Pear shaped
- Entrance hole halfway up the nest
- Up to 60 cm wide x 80 cm tall.

European hornet *Vespa crabro*
Secondary nest:

- Usually in hollow trees or chimneys, rarely in the open air
- Cylindrical
- Wide opening at the bottom
- Usually 30x60cm.

Primary nest:

- Characteric tube-shaped entrance (unlike Asian hornet nest).

Median wasp *Dolichovespula media*
Secondary nest

- Usually in bushes that are less than 2m tall
- Conical
- Small opening at lower end off centre
- Usually 20x 25 cm

Common wasp *Vespula vulgaris*
Secondary nest:

- Usually on the ground, or in confined spaces in buildings.
- Round to conical.
- Small hidden opening at the lower end.
- Usually 30 x 35 cm.

Crafting the ultimate rat snap trap: precision, power and humane control

By Dr. Stuart Mitchell

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Crafting the ultimate rat snap trap requires several essential and quality components. The right list of components produces a snap trap of robust design, functional trapping force, a humane euthanasia mechanism, optimum attraction, and user-friendly field design features.

Essential components:

- Precise trigger sensitivity.
- Predator simulated interlocking teeth mechanism.
- Precise snap trap close time.
- Snap trap forces.
- Removable bait reservoir.
- Nutritionally balanced food-based gel attractant.
- Versatile 3D spatial placement options.

Guidelines:

Precise trigger sensitivity:

- Incorporate a trigger mechanism that responds to cautious rat interactions, ensuring quick activation.
- A significant component that ensures the snap trap activates

immediately upon contact, increasing the probability of a successful rat capture.

Predator simulated Interlocking teeth mechanism:

- Include interlocking teeth in the snap trap design.
- Predatorial interlocking teeth prevent rat escape through bodily impingement, enhancing trap reliability and effectiveness.

Precise snap trap close time:

- Design the snap trap to possess a precise close time upon activation.
- Rapid close time is crucial for optimal capture and hold.
- Snap traps are engineered to close within milliseconds.

Snap trap forces:

- Average impact snap trap force of 7.04 N
- Average snap trap clamping force of 19.02 N

Significance:

The impact force required to fracture the spine of a rat is approximately 7 N. The average impact snap trap force of 7.04 N is extremely significant because it ensures the trap delivers sufficient force to humanely euthanize the rat swiftly and effectively. The alignment between the trap's impact force and the required force for spinal fracture ensures consistent humane euthanasia, reducing suffering and increasing the likelihood of a successful capture.



If the initial impact does not result in immediate euthanasia, design the snap trap to provide an effective clamping force. This clamping force should be sufficient to securely hold the rat in place until hypoxia or hypothermia occur.

Removable bait reservoir:

- Equip the snap trap with a removable bait reservoir that can be easily filled and cleaned.

Nutritionally balanced food-based gel attractant:

- Use a nutritionally balanced food-based gel attractant that is both hypoallergenic and non-toxic.
- The gel attractant should be appealing as to exceed the site food source fidelity feeding of male, female, and juvenile rats.
- Ensure the attractant is appropriate for use in sensitive areas where traditional food baits like allergenic peanut butter are prohibited.
- The attractant should be water-soluble to avoid staining.

Versatile 3D spatial placement:

- Design the snap trap for versatility pursuant to 3D spatial placement.
- Must work effectively whether set singly or in sets to exploit behaviorally confirmed rat runway fidelity (utilities above or below grade and above suspended ceilings).

- Allow the snap trap to be placed inside rat-sized tamper-resistant stations to extend strategic placement as well as prevent accidental exposure to children, pets, or non-target wildlife.

Practical tips:

Facility management:

A robust trap design and humane euthanasia method are perfect for facilities with sensitive and challenging spaces. Keep spaces rodent-free with precision control.

Sensitive areas:

A nutritionally balanced-food-based gel attractant is ideal for areas where traditional food baits are unsuitable, ensuring safe and effective rodent control.

Crafting the ultimate rat snap trap results in an essential tool pursuant to a rodent-free space. Precise snap trap close time and optimal impact and clamping forces ensure effective and humane rodent euthanasia. The added benefits of a removable bait reservoir, nutritionally balanced food-based gel attractant, and versatile 3D spatial placement options make the trap a reliable and ethical choice for pest controllers, facility managers, and allied practitioners.



Dr Matt vs 'Lens' identification software... 'Who identifies wins'

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Dr Matthew Davies

In this article, we pit our Technical Editor and entomologist, Dr Matthew Davies, against a web search-engine 'lens' feature...to see who comes out on top in an identification competition. While the pest control industry needs to embrace technology such as Artificial Intelligence, identification software/web resources and digital monitoring, we must never lose sight of the importance of the 'on the ground' practicalities of pest control. The importance of insect identification via physical specimens, not just relying on images, cannot be overemphasised.

Let's see how we get on!

Matt requested unique images of insects, taken by colleagues (special thanks to Killgerm's top entomologist Jonathan Binge for some excellent images), that haven't been published on the internet. The theory being it's more of a challenge for the software to make an identification...as an existing image on the internet wouldn't be as much of an 'ask'.

First up, a wandering weevil...

Lens



The maize weevil, *Sitophilus zeamidis*, was the first result. The woodboring weevil *Euophryum confine* was offered up as an alternative.

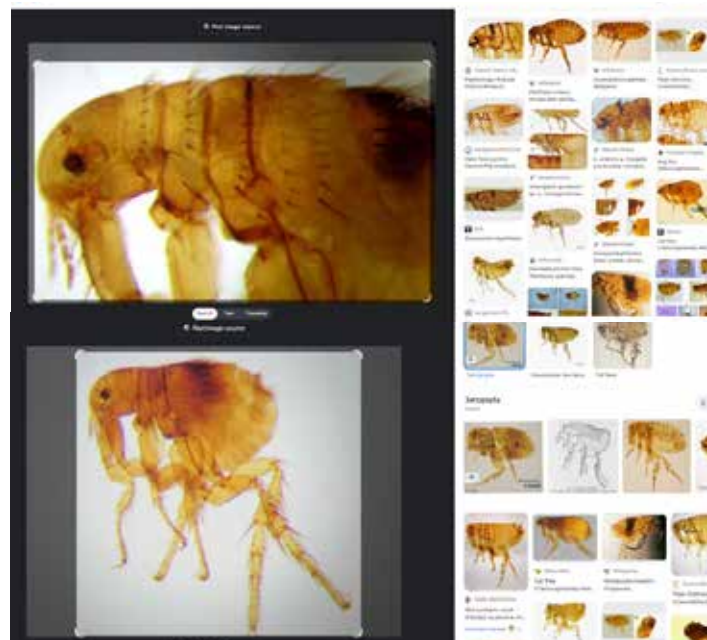
Dr Matt

Euophryum confine it is! A woodboring weevil. Although the digital result was close, it wasn't close enough – the vast difference between sources of weevil activity and therefore control measures is hugely important. One feature I look out for, is the slightly upturned edge towards the rear of each wing case – the technical terminology being 'elytra with apical sides dilated and distinctly flexed upwards'.



A flighty flea

Lens



Well at least it was recognised as a flea...and one of the first options given was *Xenopsylla* which is in the right family (Pulicidae)...but there is a lot of variation in the answers. Bird fleas *Ceratophyllus* spp, cat fleas *Ctenocephalides felis* and Northern rat fleas *Nosopsyllus fasciatus* crop up in the list. The correct one is tucked away in there!

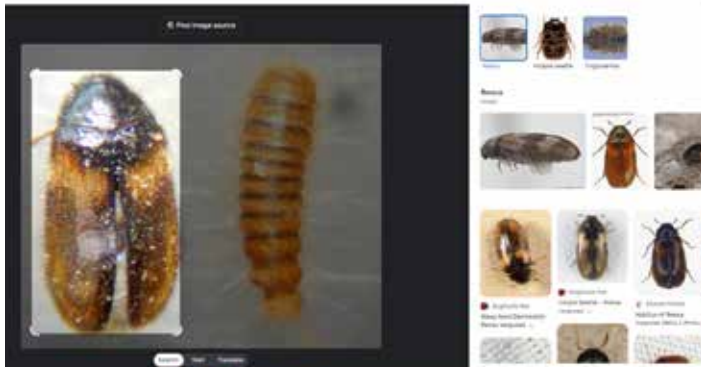
Dr Matt

A taxing and obscure/rare one! I have encountered this species before, which is an advantage. Credit is due because the correct answer was the second option when the software was analysing the first image. *Pulex irritans* a.k.a. the human flea (family Pulicidae). I feel itchy just thinking about this one!



Some features I look for are the lack of **pronotal** and **genal combs** (I call these a lack of moustache and hairy neck...not very technical but easier to remember – a 'clean-shaven' flea) and the position of the **ocular bristle below the eye**.

A bewildering beetle



Lens
This beetle was picked out by the software as *Reesa vespulae*, a type of carpet beetle.
Dr Matt

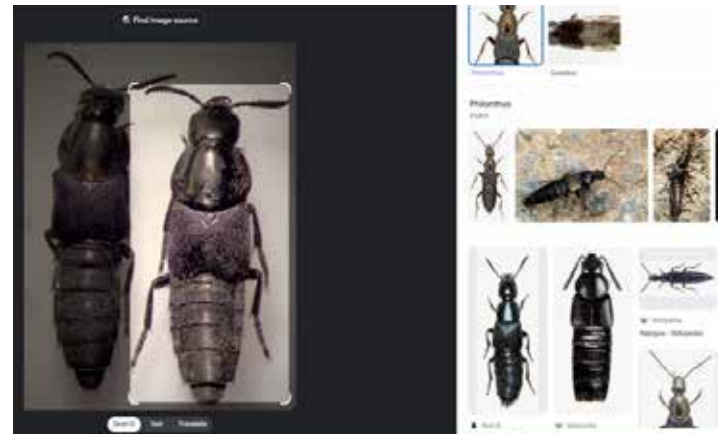
I can't fault the result – correct! *Reesa vespulae* is a suitably obscure Dermestid beetle for most pest professionals. It is one I have come across before but rather rare in terms of day-to-day pest management. They have become widespread in northern Europe over the last 30 years. Records show that it has been found feeding on insect collections, in wasp and bee nests, fluff under furniture, dried flower heads, seeds, boring into polystyrene boxes, animal skins, paper, cloth, food residues, etc.

The reproduction of this species is parthenogenetic, so only one adult is necessary to start an infestation.

Larvae are found all year round in synanthropic situations but mainly from May to October. The life cycle duration varies from a few months to 2-3 years. Adults fly readily and are usually found at windows. Treatment consists of identifying the extent of infestation and then treatment of affected areas with a residual insecticide. Checks should be

made to ensure that old bird nesting material or similar is not harbouring infestation.

A rove(e)ing intruder
Lens



Almost there – the software selected a type of rove beetle (family Staphylinidae) as the nearest match, of the genus *Philonthus*.

Dr Matt

The software went one better than me in terms of what I knew off the top of my head. I recognised this beetle simply as one of the rove beetles of the family Staphylinidae, due to the shortened elytra (wing cases) exposing part of the abdomen. It isn't *Philonthus*. It's actually something called the hornet rove beetle, *Velleius dilatatus*. It seems a fun one to move onto, after having looked at *Reesa vespulae* that can be associated with wasp nests. The hornet rove beetle earns its name, by the virtue of its larvae developing in the nests of the European hornet *Vespa crabro*. Adult beetles are found inside hornet nests, which are typically within tree holes and domestic premises. The beetles feed on fly larvae and exit the hornet nest on warmer nights to consume other insects or take sap at oak and beech trees. The larval development is in nest waste, where they ate other insects and may take deceased hornets. Approximately 10 adults and larvae can be recorded inside hornet nests. Although these insects are not predatory on hornets, or their larvae, they are not able to survive without their host – the European hornet.

Conclusion

In the right hands, identification software can be an aid but does not replace traditional identification with physical samples, microscopy and entomological references. I would probably use it on the odd occasion, to give me a few options to narrow-down results or give me reassurance regarding my traditional route... It will certainly be interesting to see where this technology goes!

And the winner is...

Dr Matt: I think we need a replay, extra time and penalties to be honest.

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The same? Better.



Opti-Catch is a retrofittable LED lamp for switch-start insect control systems. Our lamps meet both current and future legislative requirements and are equipped with a unique diffusion shatterproof coating that attracts more insects on average.

Discover more at opti-catch.com

Opti-Catch's fly catch performance is supported by independent laboratory research, which found that Opti-Catch caught an average of 10% more flies than the fluorescent alternative.



<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification>

Check the CRRU UK website at frequent intervals, to make sure you are aware of upcoming requirements regarding training and certification, as you may need to take action in 2025 to be ready for changes in 2026. Also remember to check the website to make sure you are familiar with current best practice. Also note that the Environmental Risk Assessment form has been updated.

<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/code-of-best-practice>

<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads>

Behavioural resistance in house mice



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The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) and Wade Environmental, a BPCA consultant member, are urging pest professionals across the UK to report any current behavioural issues observed in house mice (*Mus musculus*).

While substantial efforts are being made to combat genetic resistance in rats and mice, the industry lacks comprehensive data on behavioural resistance. Consequently, there is no formal guidance on addressing these specific issues.

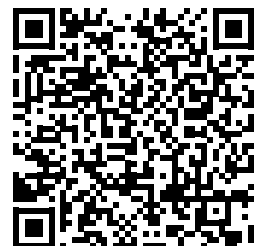
BPCA aims to change this by collaborating with the industry to gather and analyse data on behavioural resistance in house mice. This project will explore how such resistance manifests and develop effective strategies to manage it. Additionally, BPCA hopes to start mapping behavioural resistance across the UK. To achieve these goals, BPCA needs real-life behavioural resistance cases from various locations around the country. Pest professionals who encounter such cases are

encouraged to contribute by providing case studies. BPCA will supply the necessary tools and guidance to support this initiative. If you are interested in contributing to this vital project, which aims to create industry-wide benefits, please scan the QR code and complete the Behavioural Resistance Study Participation form. This form ensures that your site, activities, and commitment are suitable for the project.

Quote from Ellen Fitzgibbons at Wade Environmental:

We are excited to be involved in this project. We have already witnessed significant advancements in genetic resistance research and subsequent treatment strategies. Behavioural resistance has been largely

overshadowed by the talk of genetics but is no less important when encountered. The goal of this project is to devise better strategies to manage this type of behaviour when it is present, and this could be an exciting development for the future of pest management.



Are you winter-ready for work?

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It's that time of year, the days grow shorter, and the temperatures drop, preparing for winter at work becomes essential. Especially for pest management pros, we are out in all the elements. A few thoughtful adjustments can enhance your productivity, comfort, and overall well-being during the colder months. Here's how to get winter-ready for work. Aligning with Health and safety guidance too.

Layers

Your work attire is your first personal protective equipment. So, the first tip is layers. Whether it's to take a layer off in the winter sun (we hope?) or to add an extra layer on that cold dark morning keeping warm keeps you well. Adapt your general risk assessment to reflect this. Choosing appropriate layers can help too, that waterproof or windbreaker jacket that keeps you as dry as possible – especially with the wet weather we have had. Opting for materials that provide warmth without bulk. Wool, thermal blends, and moisture-wicking fabrics are excellent choices. You may even want to have a base layer for warmth. The biggest benefit with layers is that we can adjust those layers from inside to outside to driving.

Workspace

We can't do too much to optimise our workspace especially if it is outside, but taking note of inclement weather or incoming weather can help us adapt when to do which work. Again, your risk assessment is dynamic, and you are the person carrying out that work so can make that call, especially with work at height and the more hazardous tasks such as ladder or scaffold use. If it's too windy, do not take the risk. One thing we can most certainly do is create a better winter environment in your vehicle.

Make sure you don't just have the emergency items on board, think spare dry clothes and a warm drink too. A winter kit for your vehicle is a great idea, consisting of ice scraper/de-icer, a powered up power bank, in-car phone charger, high-visibility clothing (if you don't have it



already), jump leads, possibly an empty fuel can for when things don't go to plan (for our fuel vehicles), a shovel for the just in case, many vehicles have warning triangles now but if yours doesn't – it's a good idea or two! Two are always better than one. Even right down to those sunglasses – when the roads are iced up and that bright winter sun is beaming down it's a recipe for glare and reflection – your sunglasses can help with visibility and aid safety. Also consider your seat positioning, more clothes equals more bulk and can make movement more challenging, adjust your seating or clothing to remain safer.

Thinking ahead

Check those weather reports, regularly check in with the Met Office app or website (other apps and websites are available), it's a great resource which can help forward plan as much as possible. The same with the traffic apps and updates, plan your route and check carefully. Check weather reports, stay informed about the weather and plan your commutes accordingly. Leave earlier to account for potential delays caused by snow or ice. Stay hydrated too, cold weather can be deceptive; you may not feel thirsty but staying hydrated is vital. Keep a water bottle with fresh water in your vehicle to remind you to drink regularly.

Winterize Your Vehicle

Aside from the winter car kit, now is the time to check your vehicle.

- Check tyres (pressures and tread depths) and general visual checks.
- Check the screen washer levels (including the addition of winter

formula anti-freeze).

- Check the condition of wipers and windscreens.
- Check the oil when the vehicle is cold and at rest.
- Check the coolant level.
- Check the lights, all working correctly.

It's also a great time to check our equipment, check those dusters ready for seasonal storage, ensure they are empty of product and stored correctly. The same goes for sprayers, empty them and clean them prior to storage and ready to be serviced again next year prior to the insect seasons.

Stay Connected

As part of lone working (as we often are in pest management) we should always make sure someone knows where we are and what time to expect us. Even the customer, keeping in touch with times of arrival aids professionalism, just the same as updating them should traffic or weather be an issue as it often can at this time of year. Communication is key, any kind of communication – messaging apps, text messaging, email or the good old phone call. Especially as in winter it can seem like everything is a little bleaker on a dark winter's day, so think of your colleagues too.

Conclusion

Preparing for winter at work is more than just adjusting your wardrobe; it involves a holistic approach to health, comfort, and productivity. By embracing these strategies, you can navigate the season with ease, ensuring that you stay warm, focused, and engaged throughout the winter months.



Advion Gels from Syngenta receive HACCP International certification for food safety

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Advion Ant and Advion Cockroach are now certified for use in food handling facilities such as kitchens, production and processing areas¹.

Syngenta is proud to announce that Advion Ant and Advion Cockroach gels have received the prestigious HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) International certification for use in Splash or Spill Zones (SSZ) in the United Kingdom and Ireland. This certification validates the suitability of Advion Gels for use in food handling areas such as kitchens, production and processing areas¹.

"We are proud to receive the HACCP certification for our Advion gels, a testament to our dedication to delivering innovative and sustainable pest control solutions that meet the stringent requirements of the food industry" said Richard Moseley, Business Development Manager at Syngenta.

What is the HACCP International certification?

The HACCP certification is awarded by HACCP International, a renowned independent certification body specializing in food safe equipment, products, and services that support the food industry. This certification is highly sought after by the world's leading food

businesses, which operate under stringent food safety and quality standards, requiring due diligence in the selection of non-food materials and equipment that have a significant impact on food safety or incidental food contact.

With this certification, professional pest controllers can confidently use Advion gels also in sensitive environments, such as food processing facilities, restaurants, and other areas where food safety is paramount.

Advion Ant and Advion Cockroach: the gels of choice for every environment, including food handling areas.

Advion Gels' HACCP International certification is a testament to their favourable environmental profile and unique bioactivation feature. Bioactivation ensures that the powerful insecticidal properties of Advion gels are only initiated after target insect pests have ingested the palatable bait. This mechanism effectively renders the product harmless to non-target organisms in use, allowing pest management professionals to balance targeted insect pest control with minimizing environmental impact.

To learn more about Advion gels please visit: www.syngentappm.com/uk/adviongels

Syngenta remains committed to providing innovative and sustainable solutions that address

the evolving needs of the pest management industry, while adhering to the highest standards of safety and environmental responsibility.

1. Advion gels are certified for use in Splash or Spill Zones (SSZ): "items are suitable for use in food handling areas such as kitchens, production areas and processing areas, but are not suitable for coming directly into contact with food or items that will touch food."

Source: <https://haccp-international.com>



ORIENTAL COCKROACH

Blatta orientalis | Family: Blattidae

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Dark brown cockroach. Flattened body with a length of between 2 and 3cm. Short wings that cover only a small portion of the abdomen.

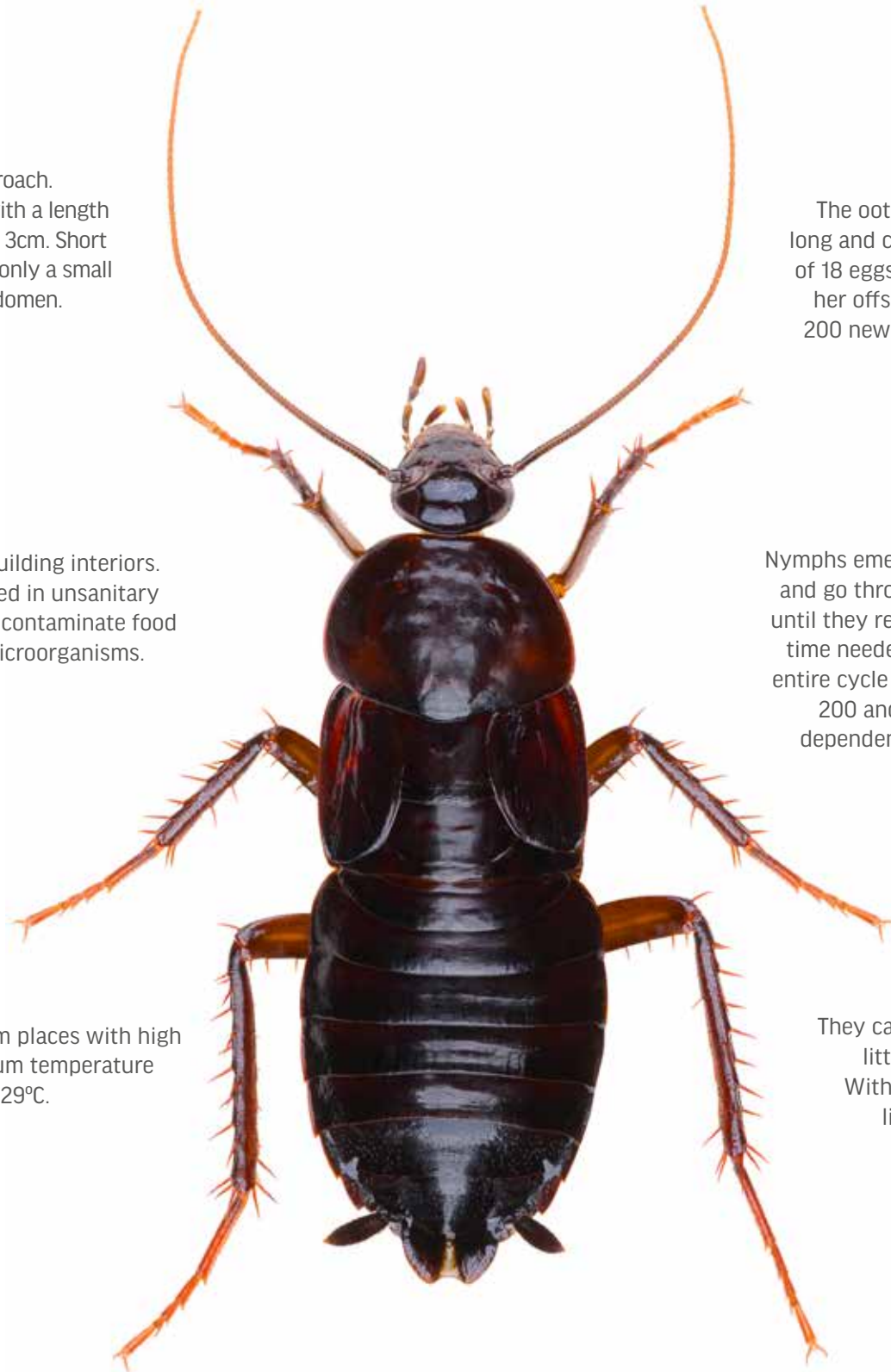
Typical pest in building interiors. Since roaches feed in unsanitary places, they can contaminate food products with microorganisms.

They prefer warm places with high humidity. Optimum temperature between 20 and 29°C.

The oothecae are 8-10mm long and contain an average of 18 eggs. Each female and her offspring can produce 200 new roaches in a year.

Nymphs emerge from the eggs and go through several molts until they reach the adult. The time needed to complete the entire cycle can vary between 200 and 800 days, highly dependent on temperature.

They cannot fly and have little ability to climb. Without food they can live up to a month.



PARASITIC WASP

Evania appendigaster | Family: Evaniidae

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Parasitoid wasp specialised in parasitizing the oothecae of cockroaches. Probably native to Asia, it lives in many temperate regions.

To reproduce, the female lays a single egg inside each cockroach ootheca. The wasp larva, as it develops, feeds on all the eggs contained in the ootheca.

Host cockroaches include species typically considered pests such as the American and Oriental cockroaches, among others.

Black body with turquoise eyes, 2cm in length. Forewings up to 7mm. Long antennae with 13 segments.

Posterior section of the abdomen (gaster) very small and attached to the upper part of the body (propodeum) by a very thin petiole. The gaster is compressed laterally and has an oval shape.

They do not bite people and during the 2-3 weeks of the adult's life they feed on the flowers. They exercise biological control over cockroach populations.



Kit maintenance: trail camera

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With the new glue traps licensing system underway in England, we consider the maintenance and use of a trail camera (motion sensor camera). This is related to the Natural England glue trap licensing requirement: 'When glue traps are in use, the Licensee must remain on site unless a trap alert pressure or motion system, or other remote monitoring equipment, is used on every glue trap, to notify the Licensee when the trap has caught the target or other species. The Licensee must check any triggered glue trap within 2 hours of receiving such an alert.'



Trail/motion sensor cameras are an example of a motion system/remote monitoring equipment that could be used to satisfy the requirements. One particular model is the Hikmicro M15, which is a powerful and robust 4G cellular Trail Camera, fitted with highly sensitive PIR sensors and IR LEDs and a built-in SIM card.

When activated the camera takes true living colour images/videos during the day and super clear black and white images/videos at night.

The captured photos/videos can be transmitted, viewed or downloaded at any time using the Hikmicro sight APP via the 4G cellular network.

The easy-to-use app with a wide range of features allows you to configure the Camera settings remotely.

The app can also be used to trigger the camera remotely allowing real-time images to be taken.

Key features:

- SIM Card: Built-in.
- SD Card: not supplied.
- Data Plan: 100 free images per month with 30 days expiration (Other data plans can be purchased via HIKMICRO Sight APP).
- HIKMICRO Sight APP: Available for IOS and Android.
- Network: 4G.
- Photo transmission: Yes.
- Video transmission: Yes.
- Resolution: Adjustable for both video and photo.
- Trigger speed: < 0.5 seconds - Protection level: IP66.
- Weight: 440g.
- Dimensions: 112mm x 86.4mm x 143mm.
- Battery Type: 6pcs (AA) or 12pcs (AA) Not Supplied.
- External Power supply: 12V/2A.

Batteries

- Remove batteries if you aren't making use of the device for a long time.

Firmware Upgrade

Trail camera supports find the latest firmware and upgrades it via the HIKMICRO SIGHT APP. Before upgrading, please confirm that the camera

battery capacity is more than 50%. When the battery level is lower than 50%, the firmware upgrade is not supported.

Transportation

- Keep the device in original or similar packaging while transporting it.
- Keep all wrappers after unpacking them for future use. In case of any failure occurred, you need to return the device to the factory with the original wrapper.
- Transportation without the original wrapper may result in damage to the device and the company shall not take any responsibilities.
- DO NOT drop the product or subject it to physical shock. Keep the device away from magnetic interference.

Maintenance

- If the product does not work properly, please contact your dealer or the nearest service center. We shall not assume any responsibility for problems caused by unauthorized repair or maintenance.
- Wipe the device gently with a clean cloth and a small quantity of ethanol, if necessary.
- If the equipment is used in a manner not specified by the manufacturer, the protection provided by the device may be impaired.
- It is recommended to reboot the device every 2 hours when using it to ensure the device performance.

Using Environment

- Make sure the running environment meets the requirement of the device. The operating temperature shall be -20 °C to 55 °C (-4 °F to 131 °F), and the operating humidity shall be 5% to 90%.
- Place the device in a dry and well-ventilated environment.
- DO NOT expose the device to high electromagnetic radiation or dusty environments.
- DO NOT aim the lens at the sun or any other bright light.
- When any laser equipment is in use, make sure that the device lens is not exposed to the laser beam, or it may burn out.
- Avoid equipment installation on vibratory surface or places subject to shock (neglect may cause equipment damage).

New Products

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Nemesis X

This robust all-metal electronic fly killer uses revolutionary LED filament technology ensuring superior fly control, making it the ideal sustainable choice for large open industrial areas away from exposed foodstuffs.

Visit www.killgerm.com



Neosorex plus blocks

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Visit www.killgerm.com

Contains 0.0025 % flocoumafen

USE BIOCIDES SAFELY. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND PRODUCT INFORMATION BEFORE USE



AF Universal bin plug

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Visit www.killgerm.com



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BPCA consultation to level up pest management qualifications

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Our proposed new framework for qualifications in the UK pest control industry has caused quite a stir. But exactly what does it mean, and how might it affect you? Here, BPCA's Training and Development Manager, Karen Dawes, explains. There has been a lot of talk about the new Qualifications Framework we've been working on, so I'm here to give you some insight into the proposal.

First: what is a Qualifications Framework?

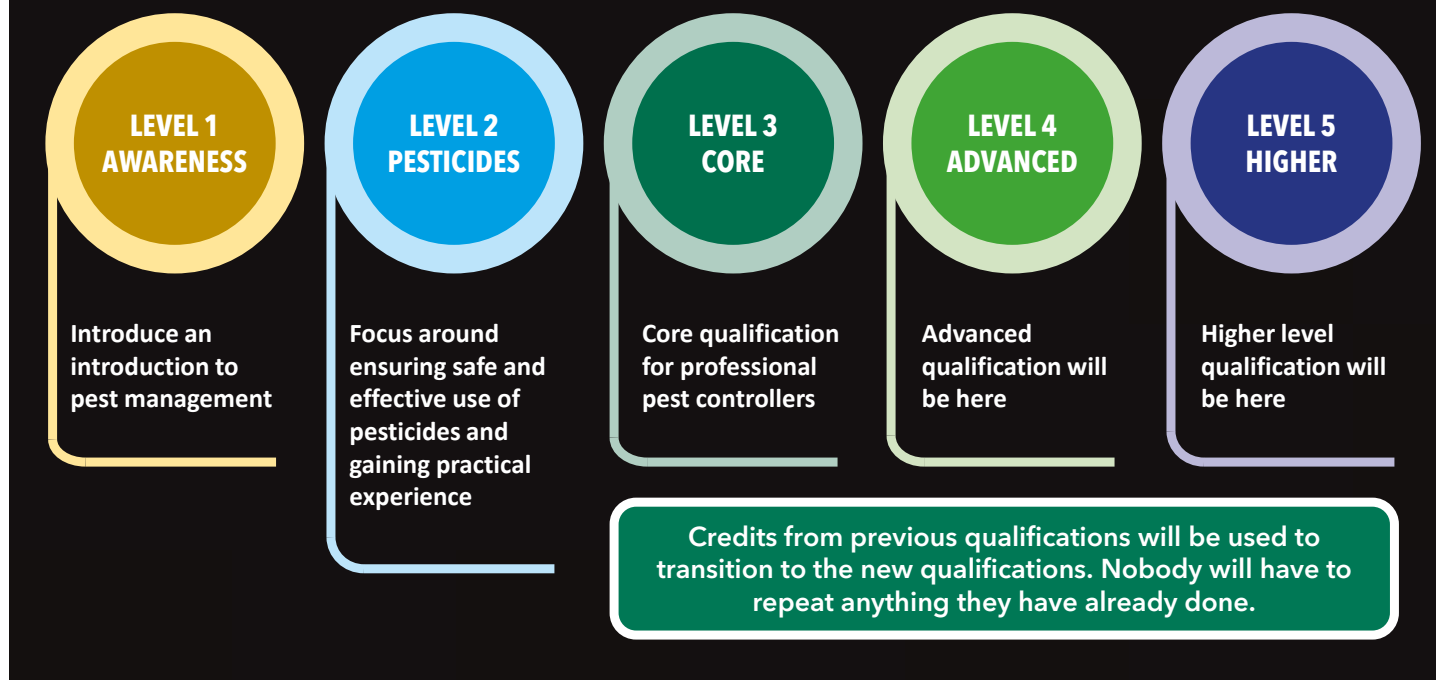
It's a structured learning system that organises qualifications into levels based on learning outcomes. Basically, we're assessing whether the quality of education in the industry is keeping pace with the complexities of the job, looking at how to improve it, and trying to more clearly define how people move through the qualifications to a higher level.

The pest management sector doesn't currently have a formal framework for career progression. It's not a question of whether the industry's

framework is up to scratch because it doesn't even exist. Instead, we have many different qualifications, some of which are awarded by Ofqual regulated awarding organisations such as the Level 2 Award in Pest Management, awarded through RSPH.

Other qualifications, like the Certificated Advanced Technician or Certificated Field Biologist, are offered through BPCA or in-house training. Our new qualification framework proposal aims to provide the structure for all qualifications to be Ofqual regulated with provision at entry through to a higher level.

How the proposed framework will work



Why do we need a qualifications framework?

It's all a bit of a hodgepodge at the moment, and that needs sorting out if we consider ourselves a professional sector.

We need to move away from the confusion of regulated and unregulated qualifications. What we need is a clear path of qualifications from beginner to expert, and all recognised by the Government and issued by an official awarding body.

We'll be working with RSPH to develop this suite of qualifications, and we've now put together an outline of what the framework might look like. Currently, all BPCA members need to have their technicians qualified to the Level 2 Award in Pest Management as standard, and this RSPH qualification is generally considered your 'right to practise' qualification across the UK - even if, in reality, you're not required by law to have ANY qualifications to call yourself a pest controller.

What's wrong with the current RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management qualification?

To be clear, we love the Level 2 Award and RSPH. We helped create that qualification, and our logo is on all the Level 2 Award certificates because of our members' contributions.

But it does have its issues.

First, a Level 2 qualification is very low - about the standard of a GCSE. Plumbers, electricians, and builders start their professional careers with a Level 3 qualification.

So, to be recognised as professionals and gain more respect, we believe technicians should be qualified to a minimum of level three. Likewise, if we want to attract new talent into the sector, we need to offer the opportunity to progress to more prestigious qualifications as people develop through their careers. Recruitment into the industry is a significant problem, and higher-level qualifications could be a huge boost.

Second, the Level 2 Award is 100% knowledge-based - which doesn't fit well for such a practical profession. A three-hour theory exam isn't going to make you a competent pest professional.

What are the proposed changes?

Our proposal involves taking two of the written modules from the current Level 2 Award in Pest Management qualification and adding an additional competency unit. These three modules will be sufficient to upgrade the current Level 2 to a Level 3 Certificate qualification.

We believe most pest technicians already work at a Level 3 standard and should be assessed and recognised as such. Also, you can get a Level 2 Safe Use of Rodenticide qualification in a single day. The scope of this qualification is very narrow, and there is no specific requirement for insecticides.

Having two Level 2 qualifications with different learning outcomes requirements isn't good. In fact, it does us all a massive disservice and is confusing for new entrants, our customers, and even the government when we're talking to them and trying to protect our toolkit.

Our proposal looks to keep the Safe Use of Rodenticides at Level 2 and develop a new qualification to include Safe Use of Insecticides. Combined with a practical assessment, this broader Level 2 qualification would allow new technicians to gain the practical skills needed to become professional pest controllers and be fully prepared to take the Level 3 qualification.

Your voice counts

Remember, this is just a consultation. Everything in the proposal is subject to change based on your feedback and input.

Together, we can find the right solution that will improve the sector for all of us in the future. You can complete the consultation survey at:

www.bpca.org.uk/framework

Why Every Pest Control Company Should Be Part of a Trade Association



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The pest control industry is a vital part of public health, protecting homes, businesses, and communities from the harmful effects of pests. However, operating a pest control business goes beyond simply treating infestations – it involves staying up to date with industry standards, training, regulations, and emerging technologies. That's where joining a pest control trade association can make all the difference.

For businesses looking to elevate their operations, being part of an association like the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) provides invaluable support, credibility, and resources. Here's why every pest control company should seriously consider joining a trade association:

1. Stay Ahead of Industry Regulations and Compliance

The pest control industry is subject to strict regulations, from health and safety to environmental laws. Staying compliant with these ever-changing requirements can be a challenge, particularly for smaller businesses. As a member of a trade association like the NPTA, you'll receive guidance and updates on legal changes, ensuring you stay on the right side of regulations while avoiding costly mistakes. Trade associations also represent your interests when it comes to shaping industry policies and regulations. They have a seat at the table during government meetings and consultations, helping to influence decisions that impact pest control businesses.

2. Access to Training and Professional Development

One of the most important factors in running a successful pest control business is having a highly trained and skilled team. Trade associations offer a wealth of training opportunities, from foundational pest control courses to specialist qualifications for handling dangerous substances or working in confined spaces.

As part of the NPTA, you gain access to continual professional development (CPD) programmes, workshops, and certifications to ensure that your technicians stay on top of best practices. This helps your team not only perform better but also gives your clients confidence in the quality of your services.

3. Build Credibility with Clients

Being part of a trade association signals to potential clients that your business adheres to the highest industry standards. Customers want reassurance that they're hiring a reputable and responsible company, and accreditation through a recognised body like the NPTA provides just that. Displaying the NPTA logo on your website, vehicles, and promotional materials instantly boosts your credibility, showing clients that you are committed to professionalism, safety, and ethical pest management.

4. Networking and Collaboration Opportunities

The pest control industry can sometimes feel isolating, especially for small businesses. Joining a trade association provides opportunities to connect with other pest control professionals, whether through industry events, conferences, or online forums.

Networking within a trade association can lead to business collaborations, referrals, and shared knowledge that help you stay competitive. Plus, you'll have the chance to learn from peers and experts who understand the unique challenges of running a pest control business.

5. Access to Exclusive Resources and Tools

Trade associations like the NPTA provide members with access to exclusive resources that can help improve your business operations. This can include everything from technical guides and industry updates support with for environmental risk assessments, health and safety templates, and business management support.

Being part of an association also means you can benefit from discounts and guidance on essential services, insurance, and products—helping to reduce overheads while keeping your business running efficiently.

6. Be Part of Shaping the Future of the Industry

As a member of a trade association, you're not just benefiting from the current resources and support—you're also playing an active role in shaping the future of the pest control industry. Associations like the NPTA work to raise industry standards, lobby for favourable regulations, and improve the public's perception of pest control.

By joining, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to these efforts, ensuring that the industry continues to grow and improve in a way that benefits businesses, technicians, and the public.

Join the NPTA Today and Elevate Your Business

The NPTA is dedicated to supporting pest control companies of all sizes, providing members with the tools, resources, and training they need to thrive in a competitive industry. Whether you're a small business looking to build credibility or a large company aiming to stay ahead of regulations, NPTA membership is an investment in your future success. Don't wait—join the NPTA now and take your pest control business to the next level.

#JoinTheNPTA #ElevateYourBusiness #PestControlExcellence

The Golden Thread: Grenfell and the Building Safety Act 2022

 0113 245 0845
  giles.ward@milnerslaw.com or
  uk.linkedin.com/pub/giles-ward/31/187/6b3
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The significant chain of failures at Grenfell led to the deaths of 72 individuals. A public inquiry was launched following the disaster. It found that there was no single cause of event and that shockingly there was a series of failures of each company/third party involved with the refurbishment of the building in 2016.

The Building Safety Act 2022 ("BSA") was subsequently introduced and came into force from 1 April 2023. The act transformed the law relating to the design and construction of all buildings, placing responsibilities on those who are involved and the BSA brought the introduction of a new independent Building Safety Regulator ("BSR") to oversee the standards.

What is The Golden thread?

Following the inquiry the 'Golden Thread' was established to ensure that safety is taken into consideration for both old and new buildings. This involves the production of a comprehensive set of digital information which will ensure that the safety and management of buildings can be monitored and improved where necessary.

A set of ten principles were set out in the building regulations advisory committee golden thread report which are recorded as follows:

A set of ten principles are recorded as follows:

1. Accurate and Trusted: the dutyholder/Accountable Person/Building Safety Managers and other relevant persons (e.g. contractors) must be able to use the golden thread to maintain and manage building safety and ensure compliance with building regulations. The Regulator should also be able to use this information as part of their work to assess the compliance and safety. The information produced must be accurate, structured, and verified, requiring a clear change control process that sets out how and when information is updated and who should update and check the information.

2. Residents feeling secure in their homes: residents will be provided information from the golden thread. This will support residents in holding Accountable Persons and Building Safety Managers to account for building safety. A properly maintained golden thread should assure residents that their building is being managed safely.

3. Culture change: the golden thread will support culture change within the industry as it will require increased competence and capability, different working practices, updated processes and a focus on information management and control.

4. Single source of truth: the golden thread will bring all information together in a single place meaning there is always a 'single source of truth'. It will record changes, including the reason for change, evaluation of change, date of change, and the decision-making process.

5. Secure: the golden thread must be secure, with sufficient protocols in place to protect personal information, control access to maintain the security of the building or residents and should comply with current GDPR legislation where required.

6. Accountable: the new regime is setting out clear duties for dutyholders and Accountable Person for maintaining the golden thread information to meet the required standards. Therefore, there is accountability at every level.

7. Understandable/consistent: the golden thread needs to support the user in their task of managing building safety and compliance with building regulations. The information in the golden thread must be clear, understandable and focused on the needs of the user and presented as such.

8. Simple to access (accessible): the golden thread must be accessible so that people can easily find the right information. This means that the information needs to be stored in a structured way so people can easily find, update and extract the right information.

9. Longevity/durability and shareability of information: the golden thread information needs to be formatted in a way that can be easily handed over and maintained over the entire lifetime of a building. Information should be able to be shared and accessed by contractors/new owners.

10. Relevant/proportionate: preserving the golden thread does not mean everything about a building and its history needs to be kept. The objective of the golden thread is building safety and therefore if information is no longer relevant to building safety it does not need to be kept.

The Golden Thread is legally required for all higher-risk buildings; non-compliance of these duties can result in unlimited fines and up to two years in prison.

For all your legal queries and advice please feel free to call Giles Ward on 07789 401 411 or e-mail giles.ward@milnerslaw.com



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Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
YORKSHIRE		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
11th Feb 2025	Ossett	£180 inc lunch
15th April 2025	Ossett	£180 inc lunch
Principles of Insect Control		
12th & 13th Feb 2025	Ossett	£205 Inc lunch
16th & 17th April 2025	Ossett	£205 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
29th April 2025	Doncaster	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Control		
7th & 8th April 2025	Holmes Chapel	£330 Inc lunch
Bird Guano		
20th Feb 2025	Ossett	£180 Inc lunch
Flying Insect Management		
25th March 2025	Ossett	£180 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigation & Rat Control		
27th Feb 2025	Ossett	£235 Inc lunch
PRACTICAL COURSES		
Trapping Techniques		
20th March 2025	York	£180 Inc lunch
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
YORKSHIRE		
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
12th March 2025	Ossett	£180 inc lunch
Insect Workshop 1 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
13th March 2025	Ossett	£180 inc lunch
RSPH - LEVEL 2 Safe use of aluminium phosphide for the control of vertebrate pests FEE - £450 + VAT per person (includes RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
28th & 29th May 2025	York	£450 Inc lunch
Lantra Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1 & PA6)		
18th & 19th Feb 2025	Ossett	£595 Inc lunch
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £950 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
Venue: Ossett		
Unit 3	Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st January 2025	
Unit 1	Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th January 2025	
Unit 2	Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th February 2025	
Examination	Wednesday 5th February 2025	
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
EAST ANGLIA		
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
24th April 2025	Norwich	£80 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees and Wasps		
23rd April 2025	Norwich	£180 Inc lunch

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SURREY		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
11th March 2025	Lingfield	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
12th & 13th March 2025	Lingfield	£205 Inc lunch
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BERKSHIRE & HAMPSHIRE		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
18th March 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
19th & 20th March 2025	Newbury	£205 Inc lunch
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
3rd Sept 2025	Newbury	£80 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
8th May 2025	Newbury	£235 Inc lunch
11th Sept 2025	Newbury	£235 Inc lunch
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
30th April 2025	Newbury	£180 Inc lunch
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BRISTOL		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
15th April 2025	Bristol	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
16th & 17th April 2025	Bristol	£205 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
20th March 2025	Bristol	£235 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
15th May 2025	Bristol	£180 Inc lunch
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
MIDLANDS		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Open Awards Level 2 Award in the Principles of Rodent Control		
4th March 2025	Burton on Trent	£180 Inc lunch
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
5th & 6th March 2025	Burton on Trent	£205 Inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
27th March 2025	Kibworth	£235 Inc lunch
Bird Free		
24th April 2025	Kibworth	£30 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
13th Feb 2025	Burton on Trent	£235 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
29th April 2025	Burton on Trent	£180 Inc lunch

RSPH - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £950 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
Venue: Newbury		
Unit 3	Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th February 2025	
Unit 1	Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th February 2025	
Unit 2	Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th March 2025	
Examination	Wednesday 5th March 2025	
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LEVEL 3 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £850 + VAT per person (includes RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
Venue: Newbury		
Training and Information day	26th March 2025	
Core Unit examination	9th April 2025	
Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SCOTLAND		
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
9th April 2025	Livingston	£80 inc lunch
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Bird Guano		
10th April 2025	Livingston	£180 Inc lunch
Flying Insect Control		
30th April 2025	Livingston	£180 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 1 Bedbugs & Fleas		
8th April 2025	Livingston	£180 Inc lunch
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LEVEL 3 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £850 + VAT per person (includes RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)		
Venue: Scotland - Livingston		
Training and Information day	15th April 2025	
Core Unit examination	1st May 2025	

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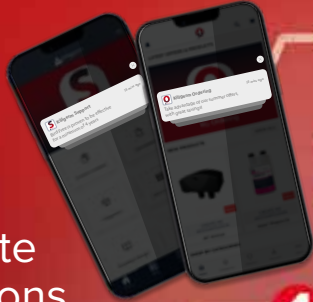
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