Top 10 Tips...

For Wasp Control

1. **Are you sure you have wasps rather than bees?** There are strict codes of practice and restrictions on the treatment of bees because they are endangered. Incorrect treatment could lead to prosecution.

2. **If you have a swarm, it is likely to be honey bees**, and will usually move on in a couple of days. If you have a persistent swarm, you will need a reputable beekeeper or professional pest control company like Monitor to assess removal.

3. **Get the problem treated sooner rather than later** - a small nest with a few wasps is easier to deal with than a large nest which could contain thousands of wasps. Do not try to knock down a fully built nest - it could contain over 20,000 wasps!

4. **Don’t disturb a nest** - wasps will fiercely defend it.

5. **Control your waste** - rubbish bins should be fitted with close fitting or spring-loaded lids. Rubbish should be frequently disposed of and regularly cleaned of food wastes.

6. **Control your product** - ensure food products and ingredients are well contained, and clear spillages as soon as possible to avoid attracting wasps. They are particularly attracted to sweet substances in late summer.

7. **Exclude wasps from buildings** - foraging wasps can be excluded from buildings by the use of 3mm screens at windows and doors.

8. **Maintain your property** - Repair windows, door frames and broken/missing brickwork and fill holes with mortar or caulk.

9. **Use wasp traps during the ‘sweet feeding’ stage** - from late July onwards, wasps change from feeding on insects to foraging for sweet foods. This is when they are more likely to sting. This can be managed with a planned wasp trap programme for outside areas, to intercept wasps vigorously pursuing scent trails for sweet foods.

10. **Wasp nests won’t be re-inhabited** - once treated, a nest in a loft-space is harmless and doesn’t require removal. However, a spent nest in a food premises could be a source of contamination, so is best removed after treatment.