

Flea Information Sheet

Fleas

Fleas are generally found in homes where there are or were pets. **Fleas** need blood for food and this is why they bite people or animals. Unlike some pests that can be found around the home, fleas cause discomfort and irritation to both pets and people. Fleas are not just an annoyance, some people and animals suffer allergic reactions to flea saliva which can result in rashes.

Spotting Fleas



Fleas are small, dark brown or a reddish brown. They are generally from 1 to 4 mm long with flattened bodies. Fleas are wingless and can jump up to 20 cm vertically and 41 cm horizontally. Fleas are most active in the summer time, and are found on the floors (all types, including carpet, linoleum, tile, hardwood and concrete), on windowsills, under couch and armchair cushions, on closet floors and under beds. If you wear white socks around your carpets, you will be able to actually see the fleas, which is a good indication of whether or not you may have fleas.

Getting Rid of Fleas

Getting rid of fleas can be difficult. You can try home methods such as: vacuum carpets and cushioned furniture daily. Clean around cracks and crevices on floors and along baseboards and basement. Steam cleaning carpets will kill fleas in all stages with the hot steam and soap. Wash all pet bedding and family bedding in hot, soapy water every 2 to 3 weeks. Lift blankets by all four corners to avoid scattering the eggs and larvae. If a flea infestation is severe, replace old pet bedding.



To break the flea cycle successfully, the home, pet and often times, the yard must be treated. The manner in which these treatments are done can greatly influence the results. The homeowner must rely on a combination of sanitation and chemical treatments.