



A-1 Pest Control Limited Since 1969
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FLEAS

Complete Metamorphosis – Egg, Larva, Pupa, and Adult

Fleas are small, wingless, dark brown to reddish brown insects. They range in length from 1 to 4 mm long. Fleas have powerful hind legs which make them one of the best known jumpers relative to their body size. Their bodies are compressed laterally, making it easy for them to move through the feathers or fur on animals. Fleas are external parasites. Each species feed and live on a specific host but will feed on humans and a variety of warm blooded animals. The most common species is the cat flea. Both male and female fleas feed on blood. Females lay 4 to 8 sticky, light coloured, smooth round eggs after a blood meal. She can produce 25 eggs per day, usually deposited on the host. These loosely attached eggs will soon fall off. Eggs are also deposited on pet bedding, furniture, and floors. Flea larvae are hairy, whitish in color, with brown heads and range from 1.5 to 5 mm in length. Larvae feed on a variety of organic debris including dried blood in the waste of adult fleas. Depending on type and habitat, fleas can take anywhere from two weeks to several months to complete their life cycle. Adult fleas can remain dormant for extended periods until conditions such as a rise in temperature or animal and human activity stimulate their emergence. Flea bites have a single puncture point at the center and can cause itching and inflammation of the skin. Bites appear as a red, slightly-raised, hard spot. Fleas are also known to transmit disease.

Effective flea control includes the treatment of dogs and cats. Check with your veterinarian for the appropriate control products. Regularly vacuum breeding sites, including pet bedding, upholstered furniture, cracks along walls, and carpets. Dispose of the vacuum bag contents afterwards.

Pre and post treatment instructions

1. Pick up all articles from the floor. (this includes toys & clothing)
2. Remove items from under beds & bottom of closets.
3. Vacuum entire house and dispose of the vacuum bag or debris outside.
4. Wash all floors **prior** to treatment. **Floors should not be washed for 25 days following treatment.**
5. Fish tanks should be covered with a towel or blanket and the air supply **must be unplugged.**
6. People and pets must remain out for at least 4-6 hours to allow adequate drying time. If you are pregnant or have asthma you should leave for at least 8 hours or overnight.
7. If you have a dog or cat they must also be treated. (contact your veterinarian for flea control products)