



Code of Best Practice **Control of Wood Boring Insects**

Version 1.1: April, 2023.

British Pest Control Association Code of Best Practice for Control of Wood Boring Insects


A BPCA Code of Best Practice is a set of written rules which explains how people working in our industry should behave in a particular situation. It encompasses relevant legislation but is not the law in itself.

However, were a member to act outside of the norms outlined in the CoBP, they may be subject to disciplinary action or be in breach of legislation. Members must abide by Codes of Best Practice

in their day-to-day work. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the Association.

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Driving excellence in pest management

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British Pest Control Association

Code of Best Practice for Control of Wood Boring Insects

Treating structural Wood Boring Insects is a highly specialist activity. To control wood boring insects, you need to understand:

- How buildings are constructed
- The structure of the timber elements and where they run
- The different wood boring insect species and the timbers they may infest
- Treatment safety and efficacy.

Sometimes, wood boring insects may appear due to a relatively straightforward cause, such as a wicker basket stored in the back of an attic that has become infested. This situation can be remedied by removing the infested item and vacuuming the residual adult insects.

Structural wood boring insect treatments are entirely different and require a much higher level of skill, knowledge and relevant insurance. This Code of Best Practice will only address the structural treatment of wood boring insects.

This Code applies to all nations of the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

Legislation

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Bats and birds are a protected species, and no harm or disturbance can occur during treatment for wood boring insects. For bats, an appropriate organisation such as the **Bat Conservation Trust** must be contacted, in order for them to investigate any suspected bat activity.



No harm or disturbance should be caused to bat species during the treatment of wood boring insects.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Many regulations come under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HASWA) which may apply to treating wood boring insects. These include:

- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 2002
- The Work at Height Regulations 2005
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- The Confined Spaces Regulations 1997.

Professional fundamentals

The expectations listed below are the minimum standards expected from a pest professional who involves themselves in treating structural wood boring insect infestations.

Prerequisites

1

Appropriate experience, training and skill are essential. The **Property Care Association (PCA)** regularly has appropriate training programmes.

2

It is recommended that the appropriate insurance is gained where guarantees are offered. This type of insurance is often referred to as 'Insurance-backed guarantees' (IBG).

Surveys and inspections

3

Surveys and inspections must cover:

- Type of building
- Legal protection, ie is the building a listed site?
- Timber type, including concealed or built-in timbers
- The type, extent and current nature of insect attacks and where these are located
- Type and scale of treatment to be specified
- The extent of deterioration
- The repairs required as assessed at the time of the inspection.

4

Your survey should include a description of anything that will need to be removed or opened to complete the treatment or other preparatory works. For example:

- Will you need to remove roof insulation?
- Do you need to take off the covering from a water tank?
- Do you need to lift floor coverings?

5

Your survey should detail any non-target species, such as bats and birds.

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6

Communicate the work required and realistic timescales for treatments. The survey or a findings report must be shared with the customer and a copy kept by the pest management company.



Owls can be vulnerable to irresponsible pesticide usage.

Safety

7

If the structure being surveyed is dangerously unstable, immediate action must be taken to ensure public safety and notify the owners or their agents.

8

Carry out all work in line with UK health and safety legislation (see above Health and Safety at Work Act 1974).

9

Follow all pesticide label instructions and manufacturers' recommendations.

Essential further reading

Code of Practice for the Investigation and Control of Wood Destroying Insects and Fungi in Buildings

Pest professionals that carry out work on structural issues should also adhere to the Property Care Associations (PCA) "Code of Practice for the Investigation and Control of Wood Destroying Insects and Fungi in Buildings", paying close attention to the sections concerning insects.

[property-care.org/resources/-code-practice-investigation-control-wood-destroying-insects-fungi-in-buildings](https://www.property-care.org/resources/-code-practice-investigation-control-wood-destroying-insects-fungi-in-buildings)

BPCA Code of Best Practice: Insecticide Usage

This Code is intended to outline the legal requirements of insecticide use, as well as the best professional practice [bpca.org.uk/codes](https://www.bpca.org.uk/codes)



The British Pest Control Association requires that its members meet a range of criteria including strict abidance to all of our Codes of Best Practice. You can search for our members on the BPCA website [bpca.org.uk/find](https://www.bpca.org.uk/find)

BPCA makes strenuous efforts to ensure the accuracy and current relevance of its publications, which are intended for use by technically competent persons.

However, this does not remove the need for technical and managerial judgement in practical situations. Nor do they confer any immunity or exemption from relevant legal requirements, including by-laws.

If you suspect something in this document is incorrect or out of date, please report it to technical@bpca.org.uk.

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