



BPCA

British Pest
Control
Association



Code of Best Practice **Surveys**

Version 2. August 2020.

British Pest Control Association Code of Best Practice for Surveys

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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bPCA.org.uk/codes

Driving excellence in pest management

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Code of Best Practice for Surveys

The purpose of a survey is not just to detect the pests; it is the ideal time to also note hygiene deficiencies, potential food sources, proofing defects and eliminate possible harborage.

These all form an important part of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy, and often have a significant bearing on the time and materials it will take to gain and keep control of a pest issue.

The visit frequency should also be based on an assessment of the risks posed by pest activity determined by a thorough survey.

This is also the time when you can start the relationship with your customer. You can ensure that they are receiving the cover that is required for that particular site and meeting any auditing body requirements that may be in place.

Site surveys

It is strongly recommended that a full site survey be conducted prior to any estimates/proposals being given. Site surveys should only be carried out by a suitably trained, experienced and competent person.

The considerations taken into account should include but are not limited to:

- Identifying the pest
- Determining the size/extent of the infestation
- Establishing if there is an

- alternative food source
- Checking for existing and potential harbourages
- Identifying any water sources
- Examining any history of pest infestations on site
- Establishing (if possible) the source of infestation
- Identifying any Non-Target Hazards, including children, pets and wildlife
- Checking for any proofing defects
- Establishing any hygiene issues or defects
- Ensuring that all areas are inspected including accessible roof voids, cellars and all external areas
- Considering local environmental factors (adjoining buildings, railway lines, etc).

Phone surveys

There will be times (e.g. small domestic works) when a survey needs to be conducted over the phone so that an estimate, (subject to survey) can be given.

However this should always be followed up by a site survey once the work commences.

The below information, as a minimum, should be gathered at the time of the call.

- Pest species
- Area(s) of activity
- Size of infestation
- Details of any significant risks on site
- Records of any previous treatments.

Tenders

The process for tenders, involving a large number of premises, will normally involve site surveys for a representative number of the sites covered by the tender.

This, and additional information regarding past history, can be used to gather the information required to quote for the business.

However, if successful in obtaining the contracts, a full site survey should be conducted at each site prior to any treatments being carried out.



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

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.

Further reading

- The CRRU Best Practice document thinkwildlife.org
- Health And Safety At Work Act 1974.

