

## FLEA MANAGEMENT



Fleas in and around buildings can be irritating and an annoying problem. The major pests are the cat flea *Ctenocephalides felis* and the dog flea *Ctenocephalides canis*.

### Pest Status

Fleas are irritant to humans and animals. They have been known carriers of diseases such as plague and typhus.

### Identification and Life Cycle

Fleas undergo a complete metamorphosis and there are four stages in the life cycle - **Egg, Larva, Pupa, and Adult**.

The entire life cycle may take as little as 18 days to more than a year depending on the seasonal conditions.

**Eggs** are white and about 0.5mm in diameter.

**Larvae** are small, active and have a worm like appearance.

They are white or greyish in colour with 13 body segments. They are approximately 5mm in length.

### Adults

The adult female lays 4-8 eggs after a blood meal. In a lifetime she may lay up to several hundred eggs. Eggs can hatch within 2 days or up to several weeks depending on temperature and humidity. Eggs are laid on the host animal and usually drop off and are distributed in areas where pet animals frequent such as carpeted areas, soil areas, and animal bedding.

### Food and Habitat

Fleas prefer warm, humid conditions for survival. Fleas are found in and around pets bedding.

Fleas survive on blood meal from the pets.

## Management and Treatment

Management and treatment of fleas is best achieved through an integrated pest management approach.

The main options include habitat modification and chemical control.

### Habitat Modification

Habitat modification involves altering the environment to make conditions less conducive for flea survival. In practical terms, this means removal of leaf litter, vegetation, and keeping lawns cut short.

### Chemical Treatments

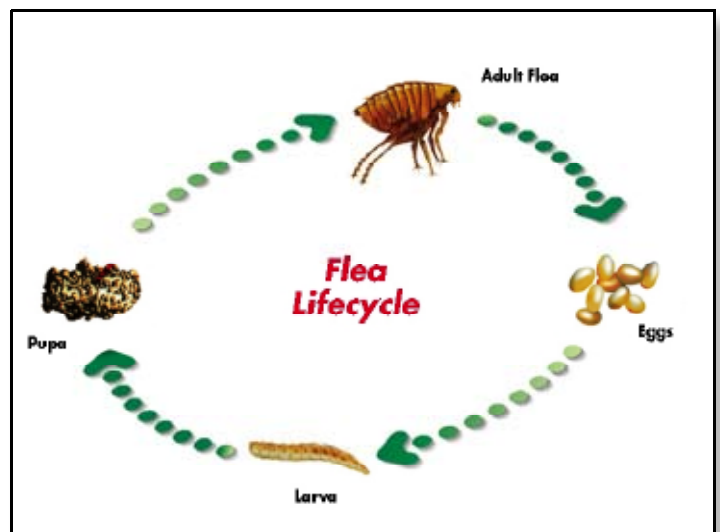
There are 2 forms of chemical treatments.

#### Host Treatments

This involves treating hosts (eg. dogs and cats) with products that are available from your veterinarian so that fleas will be killed either on contact, or once they start feeding on the host. (eg. flea treatments for pets)

#### Habitat Treatments

This involves the application of approved insecticides to the areas where fleas are breeding.



## Working as a Team

Effective management and treatment of fleas are only achieved through a team effort between you and your Amalgamated Pest Control technician.

### **What needs to be done before we treat?**

- Vacuum all carpets, especially where pets sleep or rest.
- Empty the contents of vacuuming into an airtight plastic bag and mist with an aerosol and dispose into a bin.
- All floors, including built in cupboards should be cleared of boxes and any other items such as toys, shoes etc.
- Treat pets with approved flea treatments.
- Remove children's toys and similar items from the yard.
- Mow lawns.
- It is preferable if animals are removed from the property (or at least the vicinity of the treatment area) until the treatment has dried.
- If the yard is dry, pre-wet the yard 1 hour prior to treatment to allow for optimum application to the soil.
- Discuss other requirements with your local Amalgamated Pest Control branch. (eg. what needs to be done after treatment)

## After Treatment

After the treatment is completed the technician will check that the building is completely dry for safe entry.

The customer can then enter the premises and go about their normal day to day duties. At this stage of the treatment all the adult fleas will have died. However in the next **14 -21 days** the customer will see the odd flea as they are hatching out of their cocoons. They will be mainly found the early mornings. These fleas will move through the carpet and come in contact with the insecticide. The insecticides used are low toxicity to humans and pets and has a short residual life.

It is important the carpets are not vacuumed or cleaned for approximately 1 week after the treatment. Fleas may be found in the premises if the pet is not been regularly treated. The customer's responsibility is to ensure that pets are regularly treated to ensure they are free from fleas at all times.

It is recommended that the customer go around over the next few days or so and stomp around on the floors to hatch the pupa case.

## **Why Choose Amalgamated Pest Control?**

- With over 80 years of industry experience we can provide the solutions to your pest management challenges.
- Our customers come first - We provide prompt service. While the others are arranging, we're doing.
- After-sales service is a priority. Once a treatment is completed, we stand by our work with a free service warranty backup Should the need arise; a prompt on-call service applies for the entire warranty period.
- Our field technicians carry the latest specialised equipment designed to achieve the safest and most effective application possible. Our treatment methods have proved to be the most successful control measures available.
- We are a quality assured company to ISO9001:2000.
- We are comprehensively insured for your peace of mind.
- An Amalgamated Pest Control Management Program means more than just applying pesticides. We have field supervisors and national technical support available for expert advice on pests and pest management.
- The pesticides used are environmentally friendly and the safest available. Continual testing and research ensures that the latest developments are implemented with your interests in mind.
- We have extensive industry involvement at all levels, and active working relationships with our industry association (AEPMA), State and Federal Government bodies covering Health, WorkCover, Forestry, Primary Industries and Employment and Training.
- We can provide your complete pest management solution.

### **Our services include:**

- o All general household and commercial pests including rodents
- o Mosquito and biting Midge Management
- o Termites and other timber pests
- o Bird and fly management
- o Specialist compliance in HACCP and AQIS systems

Local Branch:

Acknowledgements & References:  
Photos: [www.museum.vic.gov.au](http://www.museum.vic.gov.au) & [www.garrards.com.au](http://www.garrards.com.au)



[www.amalpest.com.au](http://www.amalpest.com.au)  
**Phone 13 19 61**

APC 104NA Rev 21/9/2007

**PestCert™**  
Our professionalism ... your security