



Fact File - Fleas

Fleas have lived alongside man for well over 300 million years. They have survived all natural disasters that the world has incurred over that time; they are a hardy insect, and a survivor. They can carry bacteria pathogens and disease. Fleas are a nuisance biting insect, generally leaving a cluster of reddish welts below the knee.

In New Zealand we generally encounter four species of fleas:

- Cat Flea - *Ctenocephalides felis*
- Dog Flea - *Ctenocephalides canis*
- Human flea - *Pulex irritans*
- Rat flea - *Xenopsylla cheopis*

One flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day, which will lay dormant in your carpets and floor boards until the correct climate for hatching is reached. Flea eggs hatch into the second stage of the lifecycle, larvae, before entering the pupae stage. They can remain dormant for some time before being alerted to a potential blood host by vibration, temperature, or humidity. Following this, they finally emerge as young adult fleas. And so the life cycle continues, until it is broken with professional treatment.

How we treat fleas

All flea species require similar treatment, which is a residual pesticide surface treatment, along with an insect growth regulator (IGR). The technician will apply the product where flea activity is prevalent e.g. on carpet, mats and wooden flooring. In some cases treatment may also be required underneath the house; this is subject to accessibility.

The treatment works on residual contact, which means the flea must come into contact with the pesticide and absorb the product. The product then kills the flea by affecting the nervous system. The pesticide cannot penetrate flea eggs, or pupae, so re-infestation may occur between 5 - 21 days after the initial treatment, however the residual product will still be active and the re-infestation will stop after a few days.

Pre and Post Treatment Guide

It is important that your technician has easy and safe access to all entry points such as doorways, windows and skirting boards – these are the key areas for treatment. Before your technician arrives please make sure you:

- Vacuum all floors, and dispose of the bag
- We recommend that bedding is hot washed and dried (or dry in direct sunlight)
- If you have pets, it is important that they are treated with an approved animal flea product
- Cover beds, bed linen and pillows
- Clear any items from window sills and the floor (including from under beds and other furniture)
- Put personal items (e.g. clothing, toys) in cupboards or on a bed with a cover sheet
- Put personal toiletries (e.g. toothbrush, towels, toilet paper) in cupboards or cover them
- Put food and crockery away in cupboards (store food in airtight containers)
- Clean behind and under your whiteware appliances e.g. fridge, dishwasher and oven
- Wash walls and skirting boards.

Cleaning may remove the residual product leaving the treatment ineffective. We recommend that wash walls and skirting boards and water blast the outside of your property several days before the treatment. If your property is being treated for fleas, we suggest you have your carpets professionally cleaned at least two days before your technician arrives.

Do you have pets?

You must notify our office if there are pets on your property. If you have an 'inside' pet you must make alternative arrangements for your animal during the treatment and for at least three hours after the treatment. Reptile or fish tanks must be covered with oxygen supplies turned off.



After your pest control treatment

- Do not enter the property for at least three hours after your pest control treatment
- Wipe down food preparation areas (but not walls)
- Wash any bedding/covers that were left out
- Do not vacuum your floors for 7-10 days after the treatment; this allows time for the product to work into the carpet fibers
- Do not wash the product off surfaces.

For to prevent further infestations

There is no such thing as an invisible barrier to stop pests from coming inside. We view pest control as a partnership between our qualified technicians and you, the property owner/tenant. Good sanitation and hygiene, together with an effective pest control programme can reduce infestation.

We also recommend that you:

- Clean your kitchen and food preparation areas every day
- Remove rubbish and food scraps every day – dispose of in sealed bags
- Clean behind the fridge and oven to prevent pests from breeding (at least every 1-3 months)
- Regularly clean kitchen cupboards that are used to store food (at least every 1-2 months)
- Always keep food stored in air tight containers (e.g. flour, rice, spices, pasta, fruit and vegetables)
- Clean pet food bowls after every use

Our products

We offer a 100% guarantee on the professional service and application of our products. We use commercial pest control products that are approved by New Zealand's [Environmental Protection Agency](#). These products are designed to break down over a six to eight week period. The product has a manufacturer's guarantee of up to three months. To remain effective, the product must not be removed for the recommended life of the treatment (12 weeks). New Zealand has harsh UV light that may cause the product to break down earlier. More than one treatment may be required for ongoing control over the summer months.

Your treatment has a set timeframe for effectiveness. If you have any questions or concerns within four weeks of your treatment date please contact us on T: 0800TOAJET | E info@ajetservices.co.nz.