

How to choose a reputable pest control company checklist

The one key question to ask above all others when choosing a reliable and competent Pest Control company that you feel safe with:

How do I select a reputable pest controller?

This question is so important because the expertise of the pest controller and integrity of the pest control company will form the basis of having a successful outcome to your pest issue.

To help you in this process, here at Area Pest Control we have put together a checklist that will ensure you find and choose a professional pest control company.

This checklist has been put together from our experience of not only working with over 1,000 customers throughout Bedford and beyond in need of pest control but also from helping people who found us through the internet BPCA find a Pest Controller in their area (see more about this below).

So, regardless of where you live or whether you are looking for help with rats or wasps within your home or a pest control service for a business, this checklist will help you identify the questions to ask when selecting your pest controller.

Print this page out and let's get started!

The reputable pest control company checklist

Company Name: _____

1. Company Information and Experience

a. Is the company:

1. Insured Y/N
2. Trained Y/N
3. Accredited Y/N

Note: You are looking for a company that is Accredited by Chas and the BPCA British Pest Control Association and Trained by the BPCA, use their pest control finder

<https://bpca.org.uk/find>

You would be surprised by the number of companies that operate without insurance if they are not happy to send you a copy of their policy move on.

b. Find out how many years the company has been in business? **Years in business:**

Note: 60% of business fail or go bust within the first three years after start-up

c. Verify the company is legitimate?

Note: A legitimate Limited company will be registered on Companies House, request their company number or limited name and search here <https://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company>

We are always open with our customers here are our details for you to search, Company Limited Name: **Area Pest Control UK Ltd** Company Number: **07169233**

2. Customer Reviews & References

Google is a great place to start, the company will likely have a Google My Business page where customers will have left reviews.

Note: Depending on the size of the works references may not be required, if you have a wasp nest in need of removing a quick check on Google will suffice.

However, if you are looking at a large job such as solar panel protection you may want to ask for a reference.

3. When calling for Solar Panel Protection references, ask the following:

1. If you had to have the works carried out again would you use the same company?
2. What additional options did you choose? i.e., solar panel cleaning, gutter brush installation.
3. What would you do differently?
4. How did the company handle any challenges or problems when they arose?

4. Materials and products used by the pest control company

1. All poisons and insecticides must be licensed for use in the UK and be approved for the target species
2. Solar panel protection materials should be of premium quality to give longevity, all items should be made from steel and be galvanised; no plastic or nylon-based materials should be used
3. That the products are backed by manufacturers warranties when relevant

5. Guarantees

Note: when dealing with certain pests such as Bedbugs, Fleas and other insects a guarantee can be unworkable as infestations can reoccur from people or animals bring the pest back into the property, the same can be said for rodents, once pests are removed unless proofing works or a long term pest protection plan is put in place additional rats or mice may return. That said, a pest control company should always deal with the current pest issue and provide recommendations to prevent the issue from reoccurring.

In regards to large works for Bird Netting, Pigeon Spikes and Solar Panel protection a guarantee and terms of the guarantee should be given.

1. How long is the guarantee? _____
2. What specifically does the guarantee cover? _____
3. What does the guarantee not cover? _____
4. What happens if a repair is needed? _____

6. Company Visit Practices

Note: This may be pre-checks and surveys before the start of a pest control treatment or pre and post checks when working on your solar panel system.

Does the pest control company have any practices that set them apart from the competition? _____

7. Pricing & Availability

Note: A legitimate company that has been in business for more than a year will likely be VAT registered, check if the price includes or excludes VAT the rate for VAT is 20%

1. Does the price include VAT? If not ask for the total price _____
2. Are there any hidden costs? _____
3. Do I need to pay upfront to book the works In? _____
4. Do I need to pay a deposit? _____
5. What availability do you have? _____
6. For works of a high value request a breakdown of costs in a quotation

Finally, it is important to compare quotations on the quality of materials and workmanship on previous jobs and not price alone, quite often the cheapest price will be the most expensive if the works have to be redone by another company, the phrase "Buy Cheap, Buy Twice" comes to mind.