

ACES Factsheet: **DIY FLEA TREATMENT**



Fleas belong to order the Siphonaptera and are all blood suckers. Fleas transfer disease and are famous for killing thousands of humans historically.

Fleas naturally live outside in the grass.

WHY DO I HAVE THEM?

Flea infestations can begin when a pet such as a dog or cat brings fleas inside your home from the outside. If you do not have pets then they may have jumped onto your clothing when you were outside. Lastly they may be a sign that feral animals are nearby, such as rats running under your house. Feral rats and cats are always infested with fleas.

FUN FACT: The majority of flea treatments carried out by ACES in Auckland have NO cat or dog!

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT FLEAS?

A flea infestation can mean significant numbers of bites which means itching and irritation. Fleas increase in numbers quickly as the female produces hundreds of young.

HOW DO I GET RID OF FLEAS?

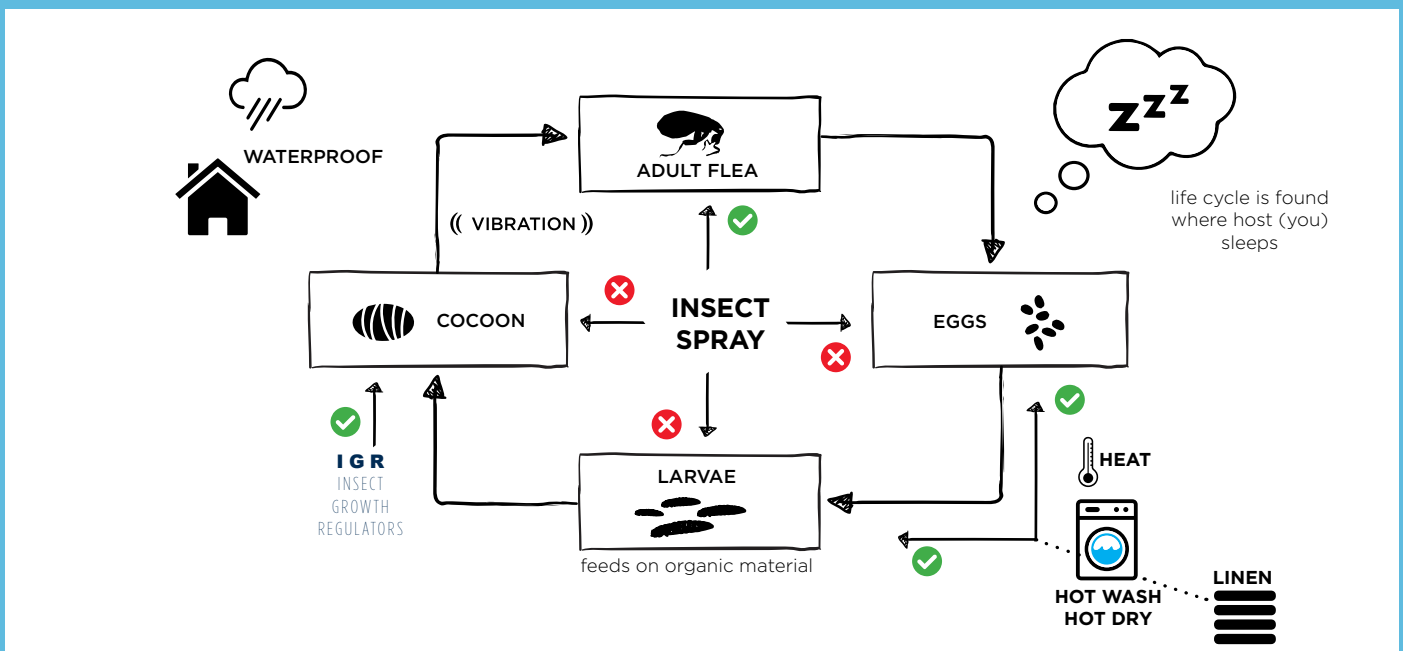
There are a number of DIY flea treatments from the supermarket or hardware shop. Choose the one you think is suitable.

Before treatment take as many items off the floor as possible. Hot wash and hot dry your linen on the day of treatment. Use your vacuum and Hoover the night before as it a good idea to **REDUCE** vacuuming for the next two weeks.

If you have a pet dog or cat you can treat them with a product from your vet and use them to catch and treat the fleas in your house. Encourage your treated pet to spend time in rooms infested with fleas. They will attract and treat the fleas in the room.

IF THE FLEAS COME BACK

Fleas have four stages to their life cycle, the adult flea, the egg, the larvae and the cocoon. The cocoon stage requires specialist products to be effectively treated. Unfortunately these products are restricted and not available to public. If your DIY treatment does not work please call ACES for a quote on providing a professional treatment.



These factsheets are only provided as a guide only. ACES are not responsible for any actions taken as a result of reading this factsheet. If you are unsure - consult a professional.