



Vespex Wasp baiting

Background, and 'how to' guide

1. **Test** at midday, by placing FOOD BAIT ONLY, i.e., no Vespex, in the bait station 'wells'.
 - a. Use small (teaspoonful) amount of fresh meat or fish- (tuna in spring water): chicken, rabbit. Cat food is no longer advised (see below for why). If you see 1 wasp per station, after 1 hour, then the wasps will take the bait!

2. **Bait** with Vespex early in the morning, as follows:
 - i. Use a small plastic container, e.g., old margarine pot, or blue-lid throwaway food container from the Supermarket. Cut out the sides, to let the wasps in – but it must have a lid/top, to keep out rain or dew. Place one bait-well in each bait station, then fasten the bait station to a tree, fencepost, shed wall, etc., at least 70 centimetres high, or 1.5 metres if children, stock or pets are present.
 - ii. Fill the bait-well with a small amount of fresh meat: chicken, rabbit, fish, or tinned tuna or salmon, in spring water (NOT in oil). Cat-food is no longer recommended, since it is increasingly not attractive to wasps.
 - iii. Add about 20 grams of Vespex.
 - iv. Leave 3-8 days, then remove the bait well, and dispose of it, old bait and food included, in a sealed plastic bag, marked 'Poison: Vespex,' in approved Council landfill. Take it yourself to the refuse centre.
 - v. Do not leave old bait in the bait stations, since it will leach out into the environment, and may enter the water table.
 - vi. Bait stations themselves can be left in position, for follow-up baiting if wasps persist, or next season.

3. Number of bait Stations:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Up to 3 hectares | 50 stations, 25 metres apart |
| b. 3-7 hectares | 50 stations, 50 metres apart |
| c. 7-30 hectares | 100 stations, 50 metres apart |
| d. 30-200 hectares | 200 stations, 50 metres apart |
| e. Over 200 hectares | 300 stations, 50 metres apart |

- f. You may not want to do the whole property: perhaps, around the house, and after that, in 'suspect' locations, especially where there are beech trees, and honeydew insects. You may be able to hear wasp activity around these trees.

4. 4 Toxicity:

- a. Keep bait stations at least 2 metres from waterways, since Vespex is toxic to fish.
- b. Bees have been shown in extensive tests, not to be attracted to Vespex. It is protein based, and they have no interest.**
- c. Keep bait away from dogs while placing it: they are attracted to its meaty smell.
- d. Wear rubber gloves, do not eat, drink or smoke while applying.
- e. If skin or eyes are contaminated, flush with water.
- f. Do not wash containers, dispose of them in sealed plastic bags, sent to approved landfill.
- g. Do not re-use Vespex.
- h. If swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Contact the National Poisons Centre, on 0800 764 766, or call your GP.

5. 5 Storage of Vespex

- a. Store in deep freeze, in a closed container, in a sealed plastic bag.
- b. Mark 'Vespex: Poison. Keep it away from foodstuffs.

6. 6 How Vespex works

- a. The active ingredient is Fipronil, also used, in much higher doses, in flea collars for dogs/cats.
- b. Wasps attracted to the bait are hunting protein, to reproduce – thus the late-season application.
- c. Wasps return the poison to the nest as a food source, especially for the Queen. A tiny amount can destroy an entire community in a few days. You may see dead/dying wasps within hours.
- d. If wasps persist, or return, re-bait after 4 weeks.

- e. Protein-feeding for wasps usually begins in mid-February, till mid-April. **Note:** the season may be later, and shorter, on the Takaka Hill and other sub-alpine areas
- f. While you may see wasps much earlier in the summer, they are unlikely to feed on protein so early. You will simply waste labour, and bait. If you see Queens early on, we find it works to blitz them individually with fly-spray. This seems to cut back on nest development.
- g. For baiting, select a run of hot dry days. Rain slows down wasp feeding, and may allow water into the bait stations.
- h. If you find a wasp nest, do not place Vespex near it, or at the nest entrance: wasps do not feed near their nest. Place a bait station 20 metres away. To destroy a nest, use other products.
- i. Vespex will not work on Paper Wasps: it does only common wasps and German wasps.

7. 7 Alerts

- a. Print out the following alert, and place a copy on any public access points to your property, such as gates.

WARNING

Vespex Wasp Bait containing Fipronil

has been placed in yellow boxes or plastic containers, at a height of between 70 centimetres/1.5 metres, across this property.

(Date, to date; month, year)

DO NOT TOUCH BAIT

WATCH CHILDREN at all times

For more information, contact (Name)
on (Mobile phone number)

8 GPS to record positioning of bait stations

It is easy to download a GPS app onto your mobile phone, which will auto-record the position of each bait station you place on your property.