



Stinging Insects: Prevention Tips

Stinging insects such as bees, wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets can create health risks and structural damage, which can impact your business's bottom line by increasing liability and decreasing profitability. Use these expert tips to deter stinging pest activity.

Where you might see them

- You may see stinging pests near trash areas, especially in the fall.
- Yellow jackets nest in voids, structures, or holes and burrows in the ground.
- Hornets build nests that hang from trees, buildings, or structures.
- Paper wasps build umbrella shaped nests with an exposed honeycomb in voids or outside in protected areas.
- Mud dauber wasps build tubelike nests made of mud in protected areas.
- Honey bees nest in both natural and man-made voids: wall voids and hollow trees.
- Carpenter bees are often active near untreated wood structures.
- Cicada killers are large wasps that build nests in the ground. The males may “chase” people, but will not sting.

What you can do to help

- Make note of any areas where you notice frequent stinging insect activity.

Tips for prevention

- Several species of stinging pests can be aggressive. If you spot a nest, keep people and animals away and call your Pest Technician immediately.
- Bee and wasp nests are most likely to be active from spring through early fall, so keep your eyes out for new nests.
- For outdoor dining areas, keep foods and drinks covered. Bees and yellow jackets have been known to crawl inside cans and sting unsuspecting victims who take a sip.
- Keep outdoor garbage containers tightly sealed or use self-closing lids. Use liners to reduce the build up of residue and regularly clean all receptacles.
- Seal holes, gaps, and cracks in structures to prevent stinging pests from building nests in voids.
- If a stinging insect builds a nest in a void, do not seal it off. They may chew through the drywall to escape.
- Screen windows and keep doors closed whenever possible.



ID and biology

- Stinging pests are active from spring to late fall, peak season is late summer.
- Unlike bees, wasps and hornets do not have barbed stingers and can sting multiple times.
- Yellow jackets can chew through drywall.
- Monitor anyone stung for several hours. Serious signs of an allergic reaction include itching, hives, difficulty breathing or swelling of the mouth, lips, or throat, shortness of breath, nausea, or unconsciousness.

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