Housing Safety Keys

Working Around Stinging Insects

Where Are They

- Inside hollow trees, or in walls, attic, etc. (the entrance is usually a very small hole),
- Nests that hang from branches or overhangs such as eaves of a building,
- In shrubs, bushes, hedges, or on tree limbs,
- In rubber tires, crates, boxes, abandoned vehicles, etc.,
- Under shrubs, logs, piles of rocks and other protected sites, and
- Inside rodent burrows or other holes in the ground.

Precautions

- Take a look around and check for visible signs of activity or a hive or nest.
- Wear long sleeve shirts, and long pants. Tape your pant legs to your boots/socks, and your sleeves to your gloves. You may also wish to wear an extra layer of clothing since wasp stings are long enough to reach through one layer of clothing.
- Power tools such as lawnmowers, weed eaters and chainsaws will aggravate the insects. When using these tools, be aware that the tools may provoke the insects or in some cases, cause the insects to swarm.
- Do not try to get rid of the nest or hive yourself. Each type of insect or situation will likely need different removal methods. It is best to call pest control professionals for this service.

Health Hazards

- Hives, itching and swelling in areas other than the sting site
- Swollen eyes and eyelids
- Wheezing
- Tightness in the chest and difficulty breathing
- Hoarse voice or swelling of the tongue
- Dizziness or sharp drop in blood pressure
- Shock
- Unconsciousness or cardiac arrest

A message brought to you by

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