

Identifying Stinging Insects



Stinging insects are often misidentified. To learn more about their appearance, environments, food sources and how at risk you are of being stung, refer to the table below. **For your safety, hives should be treated by a professional.**

	Appearance	Hive	Food Source	Habitat	Risk
Bald Faced Hornet		Paper nest, at least 3' off the ground in trees, overhangs, shrubs	Nectar, tree sap, fruit pulp, insects	Orchards, fruit trees	Extremely aggressive
Bumble Bee		Underground in abandoned holes made by rodents	Nectar	Gardens, woodlands, meadows, orchards	Typically not aggressive
Honey Bee		Honey comb layers, large hive	Nectar	Gardens, woodlands, meadows, orchards	Typically not aggressive
Paper Wasp		Comb-like appearance, small to large nest	Nectar, other insects	Gardens, trees, shrubs, building overhang	Mild-mannered
Yellow Jacket		Hole in ground or structure	Nectar, other insects	Gardens, woodlands, meadows, orchards, rotting wood	Very aggressive

FAQs

Are all stinging insects aggressive? *Some are; however, many are pollinators and will not sting unless aggravated.*

Are over-the-counter treatments effective? *Self-treatment can aggravate the hive, resulting in an attack. It can also be ineffective, costly, and worsen the problem. Over-the-counter products might work short-term, but they can only address insects present at the time of treatment. Insects that are out of the nest during treatment will not be affected. Consequently, the problem persists. Professional-grade products leave a residue, eliminating returning insects after treatment and therefore eliminating the problem entirely.*

What are some precautions to take when a hive is present? *Avoid hive areas during midday, when activity is elevated. Early morning and late evening are when they are the least active. Never cross the direct path between the insect and entry into the hive, they will treat it as a threat to the hive, resulting in aggressive behavior.*

Do you treat honey bee or bumble bee hives? *As a best practice, Batzner will assess the situation on a case by case basis. If the bees present an imminent danger, we will provide the customer with the most environmentally friendly solution possible.*

Do you remove hives? *A professionally treated hive will no longer pose a threat. However, if a hive is removed prematurely, insects away from the hive at the time of treatment will remain in the area. Leaving the hive intact after treatment allows insects to return to the hive. We can remove the hive at a later date, upon request.*

Save the Honey Bees

Honey and bumble bee populations continue to decrease at alarming rates. Factors such as pesticides, disease, climate change and habitat loss are some of the main contributors.

In an ongoing effort to help protect the species, Batzner works with clients on solutions that have the least amount of environmental impact.

We will call a beekeeper to assess the situation once it is identified that you do have honey bees.