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Pest Identifier

Damage, Identification

ApolloX Pest Control
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Schedule An Appointment

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Pest	Signs, Damage (likely first encounter)	Identification
ANTS		
<p>Carpenter Ants</p>  <p>More about carpenter ants... (Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Carpenter ants seldom tunnel into dry, sound wood, but they may excavate moist, rotting wood and other soft materials (such as foamed plastic insulation board) to make satellite nests, then continue to burrow into dry, undamaged wood.</p> 	<p>Carpenter ants range in size from one-quarter inch to up to an inch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers are wingless, dark shiny brown to black in color, and 1/4 to 1/2 inch in length. They may be seen crawling around inside a residence. Winged reproductive forms resemble workers in color and shape but are up to 3/4 inch long. The body is constricted between the thorax and the abdomen. The antennae are elbowed.
<p>Pavement Ants</p>  <p>More about pavement ants... (Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Pavement ants enter buildings through cracks in foundation walls and interior slabs. They often leave a telltale mound of soil amidst the pavement from digging their nests. Similar piles are seen in the warmer months at the cracks in sidewalks.</p> <p>Pavement ants feed on a wide variety of food. Sweets, including sugar, nectar, fruits, and syrups are readily taken. Grease, dead insects, and small seeds also are collected and stored in the nest.</p> 	<p>Pavement ants are dark brown or black ants. The pavement ant workers are about 2.5–4 mm long and vary in color from dark brown to black, with parallel furrows or lines on the head and thorax. The pedicel, which connects the thorax and abdomen, has two segments. The posterior/dorsal thorax has two spines that project upward to the rear, and they carry a stinger in the last abdominal segment.</p> <p>The swarmers or reproductive ants are winged, about twice the size of the workers, and also have a furrowed head and thorax. The spines are evident on the females but absent on the males.</p>

<p>Citronella Ants</p>  <p>More about citronella ants ...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Citronella ants should be considered only as a nuisance pest species. Normally, they go unnoticed unless the swarmers enter through expansion cracks in slabs or around door openings. Although these intrusions may alarm homeowners, the ants will not reproduce within the home nor will they attack stored goods or structures.</p> 	<p>Citronella ants are bright yellow and have a strong citrus smell when crushed. They are frequently confused with termites when they swarm into the living areas of homes. In both species, the swarmers (winged ants) may vary in color from the more common light yellow to a dark reddish-yellow or light brown.</p> <p>The workers are typically yellow with less color variation than the swarmers. The workers are 4 to 4.5 mm long and have 12-segmented antennae, with the scape (first antennal segment) just reaching the top of the head. The swarmers are approximately twice the size of the workers and have dark, smoke-colored wings. Like the workers, they can also vary in color from a light yellow to light reddish-brown.</p>
<p>BED BUGS</p>		
<p>Bed Bugs</p>  <p>More about bed bugs...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Bed Bug bites can produce irritating, itching, and burning sensations. Bed bugs feed rapidly, becoming engorged in less than ten minutes. The act of biting is usually not felt, but later there is an allergic reaction to the protein found in the bed bug's saliva. A colorless wheal or lump develops at the bite location. Discomfort from bed bug bites may last a week or more. Occasional bites indicate a beginning light infestation of adults; many bites result from a heavy, long-standing population of nymphs and adults.</p> 	<p>Bed bugs are oval, chestnut-brown insects and are flattened from top to bottom. Adult bed bugs measure about ¼ inch in length. The mouthparts are shaped into an elongated proboscis, which, when not in use, is held directed backward underneath the body. When a bug is ready to feed, the proboscis is extended forward and the stylets within are thrust into the skin of a host.</p>

BEES		
<p>Bumble Bees</p>  <p>More about bumble bees...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Bumble bees are an important, beneficial insect. They pollinate plants and flowers as they forage for food. Females are capable of stinging. They can be aggressive around nesting sites but they are rarely aggressive during foraging activities; occasionally a problem when their nest is located next to a building or walkway.</p> 	<p>Bumble bees are easily recognized, being large (3/4 inch long) with black and yellow or orangish hair patterns on their abdomens. Queens and workers have pollen baskets on their hind legs. Bumble bees can be distinguished from carpenter bees because of the presence of orangeish or yellow hair patterns on the upper surface of the abdomen on the honey bee.</p>
<p>Carpenter Bees</p>  <p>More about carpenter bees ...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>The male bee is unable to sting. The female however, is capable of stinging but seldom does. She must be extremely provoked (i.e. handled) before she will sting.</p> <p>While the damage to wood from the drilling activities of a single bee is slight, the subsequent year's broods will expand the tunnel through branching activities and may cause considerable structural damage. Additionally, they will commonly defecate on the wall or other item directly below the opening causing stains.</p> 	<p>Carpenter bees resemble bumblebees in both size and appearance but often lack yellow stripes. Most of the top of the abdomen of carpenter bees is without hairs and is shiny black in color. By contrast, the abdomen of bumblebees is fully clothed with hairs, many of them yellow in color. If you see a number of large bees hovering near the eaves of the house or drilling in wood, you have carpenter bees.</p>

Honey Bees



More about honey bees ...

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Once bees become established, they will begin to build combs for rearing brood and storing food. Although colonies may do no structural harm to the building, occasionally they use water to soften Sheetrock and remove it in order to expand the nesting area. Residents then will notice an enlarging damp area on their wall. In a few cases, the bees actually open a hole through the Sheetrock so that foragers escape into the house, annoying or scaring occupants. Finally, if the colony is killed and not immediately removed, honey will ferment and leak through walls and ceilings, causing damage.



Honey bees have four single wings – two on each side of the body. If you spot an insect with pollen baskets on the hind legs, these are bees. Worker bees are sterile females that measure between 9 and 18mm. They feature a nearly all-black head with a body coloring of golden brown and black with patches of a dull orange. Yellow bands are easily distinguishable on the abdomen and wings are clear. Their entire bodies are covered in tiny hairs with these being most notable on the head and body.

Ground Bees







More about ground bees...





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Female ground bees can sting, but rarely do. Ground bees are not aggressive. However, they will sting in defense if threatened. Males of some species may behave aggressively around nesting areas, but they lack a sting. Ground bees are beneficial insects that perform an important role as pollinators.












Ground bees, or mining bees dig solitary nests in sandy soil, often in bare patches of the lawn or garden. The female builds one burrow for herself in which to store food and rear young. Often many bees will build burrows close together. Males may fly over the burrows, patrolling for potential mates.





COCKROACHES		
<p>American Cockroaches</p>  <p>More about American cockroaches...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Cockroaches can spread at least 33 kinds of bacteria, 6 kinds of parasitic worms, and 7 other pathogens. The most important aspect of cockroach damage derives from the insects' habit of feeding and harboring in damp and unsanitary places such as sewers, garbage disposals, kitchens, bathrooms, and indoor storage indoors. Filth from these sources is spread by cockroaches to food supplies, food preparation surfaces, dishes, utensils, and other surfaces. Cockroaches contaminate far more food than they are able to eat.</p> 	<p>The American cockroach is the household cockroach. It can be identified by its large size and reddish brown color with faded yellow edges on the thorax. Adults are approximately 1-1/2 inches long and reddish brown, with fully developed wings that cover the entire length of the abdomen.</p>
<p>Brown Banded Cockroaches</p>  <p>More about brown banded cockroaches...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>The brownbanded cockroach feeds on a wide variety of materials. Like members of other cockroach species, it may consume materials like glue or paste (especially from animal-based materials), starch, and certain color dyes. As a result, items like stamps, envelopes, bindings of older books, draperies, and occasionally wallpapers may show signs of feeding. This species has also been known to chew on nonfood materials, such as nylon stockings, presumably for the residues of body oils and skin flakes. Damage by brownbanded cockroaches results from their feeding and harboring in pantries and storage areas indoors. Also, bacteria and protozoa that cause diseases (such as different forms of gastroenteritis and diarrhea) can be carried on the legs and bodies of cockroaches and deposited on food, utensils, etc.</p>	<p>Brown banded cockroaches have two lighter bands across their dark brownish bodies. Adult male brownbanded cockroaches are about 1/2 inch long and light brown, with fully developed wings . The adult females are shorter and stouter than the males and their wings do not cover the entire abdomen. Both adults and nymphs can be distinguished by the two brownish, broad bands across the body at the base of the abdomen and at mid-abdomen.</p> 





<p>German Cockroaches</p>  <p>More about German cockroaches... (Back to Contents)</p>	<p>German cockroaches produce odorous secretions that can affect the flavor of various foods. When cockroach populations are high, these secretions may result in a characteristic odor in the general region of the infestation. Disease-producing organisms such as bacteria, protozoans, and viruses have been found on cockroach bodies.</p> <p>Different forms of gastroenteritis (food poisoning, dysentery, diarrhea, and other illnesses) appear to be the principal diseases transmitted by German cockroaches. The organisms causing these diseases are carried on the legs and bodies of cockroaches and are deposited on food and utensils as the cockroaches forage. Cockroach excrement and cast skins also contain a number of allergens to which many people exhibit allergic responses, such as skin rashes, watery eyes and sneezing, congestion of nasal passages, and asthma.</p>	<p>Adult German cockroaches are 1/2 to 5/8 inch long and tan to light brown. Although they have fully developed wings, they do not fly. Nymphs are similar in appearance to adults except that they are smaller and lack wings. The German cockroach is best identified by its small size and by two dark parallel lines running from the back of the head to the wings.</p>  <p>German Cockroach Bites (People react differently.)</p>
FLEAS		
<p>Fleas</p>  <p>More about Fleas... (Back to Contents)</p>	<p>The flea can transmit a number of diseases to man, most important of which is plague. In the 14th Century, this disease, known as the "Black Death", killed a quarter of the population of Europe (some 25 million people). Murine typhus, a disease primarily affecting rats and mice, can be transmitted to man by infected fleas. When a flea feeds, it usually defecates at the same time, and it is believed that the transmission of the murine typhus pathogen occurs by scratching the infected feces into the wound. About 40 cases of murine typhus are reported each year in the United States.</p>  <p>Flea Bites (People react differently.)</p>	<p>The flea is a small insect (under 1/4 inch) and is dark brown in color. Fleas lack wings and are extremely narrow side to side, which enables them to move easily through the body hairs. Their last pair of legs is modified for jumping. They have numerous spines and hairs on their body, and their mouthparts are adapted for piercing the skin and sucking blood. The whisker-like spines on and near the head are important characteristics used in the identification of the flea.</p>





MICE		
<p>Deer Mice</p>  <p>More about deer mice...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Deer mice damage upholstered furniture, mattresses, clothing, paper, or other materials they find suitable for constructing their nests. Deer mice are a particular concern because they spread hantavirus, which can be deadly to people. Although human cases of this virus are rare, HPS can be a severe respiratory disease in humans with fatality rates of about 36%. Deer mice shed the virus in their saliva, urine, and droppings. A person may be exposed to hantavirus by breathing contaminated dust after disturbing or cleaning rodent droppings or nests or by living or working in rodent-infested settings.</p>	<p>Deer mice are the prototype for “field mice” with large, bulging eyes, big ears, a bicolored pattern and a long tail. The body color varies from a yellowish or reddish brown to grayish above, with pure white undersides and feet. The bicolored body and distinctive large ears distinguish the deer mouse from the house mouse. The deer mouse is a very proficient jumper and runner, the name given due to its agility.</p> 
<p>House Mice</p>  <p>More about house mice...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>The house mouse consumes and contaminates food meant for humans, pets, livestock, or other animals. In addition, they cause considerable damage to structures and property, and they can transmit pathogens that cause diseases such as salmonellosis, a form of food poisoning.</p> 	<p>House mice are small rodents with relatively large ears and small, black eyes. They weigh about 1/2 ounce and usually are light brownish to gray. An adult is about 5 to 7 inches long, including the 3- to 4-inch tail. The house mouse is distinguished from the deer mouse by its overall gray coat. The deer mouse has larger eyes and a white underside with a distinct line of demarcation between the dark coloration on top and the white underside. In addition, the tail on the house mouse has almost no fur on it, whereas the tail of the deer mouse is moderately to well furred and is light underneath and dark on top.</p>

MITES		
<p>Bird Mites</p>  <p>More about bird mites...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>The irritation produced by the bite of bird mites is enhanced by the injection of the mite's saliva that can cause a localized histamine response.</p>  <p>Bird Mite Bite (People react differently.)</p>	<p>Bird mites are very tiny, flattened parasitic arthropods. Although the mites will inadvertently bite people, they cannot reproduce without their bird hosts. Adults are about 0.7 to 1 mm in length and are just barely visible to the naked eye.</p> <p>Unless they are moving, they are extremely difficult to see. The color is translucent white until they take a blood meal after which the mites are reddish mahogany to brown.</p>
<p>Clover Mites</p>  <p>More about clover mites...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Clover mites do not attack people, and although vast numbers of them can enter homes, they will not reproduce under indoor conditions and will perish shortly of their own accord. While their presence is a nuisance, they do not bite humans or animals.</p> 	<p>Adult clover mites are one of the larger mites that infest plants. They are 0.75 mm long (smaller than a pinhead) and reddish-brown to olive to pale orange or sometimes green-brown after feeding. Clover mites have a greatly elongated first pair of legs. Featherlike plates or scales are sparsely arranged on the abdomen.</p>
MOLES		
<p>Moles</p>  <p>More about moles...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Moles may infrequently consume roots, bulbs, and other plant material, although rodent species (e.g., pocket gophers, meadow voles, and deer mice) are almost always the cause of such chewing damage. By far the greatest damage from moles occurs through their burrowing activity, which dislodges plants and dries out their roots. In lawns, the resulting mounds and ridges are unsightly and disfiguring.</p> 	<p>Moles have cylindrical bodies with slender, pointed snouts and short, bare, or sparsely haired tails. Their limbs are short and spadelike. Their eyes are poorly developed, and their ears aren't visible. The fur is short, dense, and velvety. Moles are 4"-8" long from nose to tail and have short, powerful front feet with large claws for digging.</p>

MOTHS		
<p data-bbox="185 140 360 196">Indian Meal Moths</p>  <p data-bbox="185 400 427 456">More about Indian meal moths...</p> <p data-bbox="185 493 434 520">(Back to Contents)</p>	<p data-bbox="474 172 1249 339">Direct damage to grain is the result of the Indian meal moth larvae feeding on the seed germ. Grain mold can become a problem. The biggest reduction in value is the result of contamination by larvae that leave droppings and silken webs in the grain. The presence of live insects and insect parts pretty much spoil the grain.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1279 172 2054 376">The Indian Meal Moth was given its name after an insect scientist found it feeding on corn meal, also known as Indian meal. From wing tip to wing tip, adult moths measure from five-eighths of an inch to three-fourths of an inch long. Attracted to the light, these bugs are found worldwide in areas where food is stored, such as grocery stores.</p> <p data-bbox="1279 416 2054 655">It is easy to distinguish the Indian meal moth from other grain pests by the peculiar markings of the forewings; they are reddish brown with a copper luster on the outer two-thirds, but whitish gray on the inner or body ends. The hind wings lack distinctive markings and are more or less uniformly gray. Adults can be seen resting on the grain surface or grain bin walls. The adults fly at night and are attracted to lights.</p>
<p data-bbox="185 695 398 751">Mediterranean Flour Moths</p>  <p data-bbox="185 956 445 1043">More about Mediterranean flour moths...</p> <p data-bbox="185 1080 434 1107">(Back to Contents)</p>	<p data-bbox="474 727 1249 858">Although the Mediterranean flour moth is not as serious a pest as the Indian meal moth and some of the grain infesting beetles, it still causes clogging of machinery with its webbing, and at times causes grain mill shut-downs.</p>	<p data-bbox="1279 727 2054 932">The adult Mediterranean flour moth is a pale-gray color and from one-fourth to one-half inch long, with a wingspread of slightly less than one inch. The wings are marked with two indistinct, black zigzag lines. The hindwings are a dirty white. When at rest, the moth extends the forelegs which raises the head and gives the body a sloping appearance.</p>

RATS		
<p>Norway Rats</p>  <p>More about Norway rats...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Norway rats eat and contaminate foodstuffs and animal feed. They also damage containers and packaging materials in which foods and feed are stored. Norway rats cause problems by gnawing on electrical wires and wooden structures such as doors, ledges, corners, and wall material, and they tear up insulation in walls and ceilings for nesting.</p> <p>Norway rats can undermine building foundations and slabs with their burrowing activities and can gnaw on all types of materials, including soft metals such as copper and lead, as well as plastic and wood.</p> <p>Among the diseases rats can transmit to humans or livestock are murine typhus, leptospirosis, salmonellosis (food poisoning), and ratbite fever. Plague is a disease that Norway rats can carry.</p>	<p>Norway rats, sometimes called brown or sewer rats, are stocky burrowing rodents that are larger than roof rats. These rats have smaller eyes and ears and shorter tails than roof rats. While Norway rats are more powerful swimmers, roof rats are more agile and are better climbers.</p> 
<p>Roof Rats</p>  <p>More about roof rats...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Roof rats eat and contaminate foodstuffs and animal feed. They also damage containers and packaging materials in which foods and feed are stored. Roof rats cause problems by gnawing on electrical wires and wooden structures such as doors, ledges, corners, and wall material, and they tear up insulation in walls and ceilings for nesting.</p> <p>If roof rats are living in the attic of a residence, they can cause considerable damage with their gnawing and nest-building activities. They also damage garden crops and ornamental plantings.</p> <p>Among the diseases roof rats can transmit to humans or livestock are murine typhus, leptospirosis, salmonellosis (food poisoning), and ratbite fever. Plague is a disease that roof rats can carry.</p>	<p>Roof rats, sometimes called black rats, are slightly smaller than Norway rats. The typical roof rat is between 13 to 18 inches long, including its tail. In fact, it is distinguished from other rats by that tail, which is longer than the rest of its body. Roof rats are sleek, slender, and agile. Their have large ears.</p> 

SILVERFISH		
<p>Silverfish</p>  <p>More about silverfish...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Silverfish can destroy cereals, books, papers, wallpaper, and other starchy items with their excrement. During severe infestations, these starchy targets may develop irregular-shaped holes from the insects' feeding. The presence of scales around or under the damage is a good indication that these pests are the culprits.</p> 	<p>Silverfish are shiny, silver or pearl gray. Adults are slender, wingless, soft-bodied insects 1/3 to 1/2 inch long. They have silvery-metallic scaly bodies that taper gradually to the rear with two slender antennae in front and three long, thin tail-like appendages that protrude from their last abdominal segment. Silverfish move rapidly (including sideways), and their flat bodies let them hide in narrow crevices.</p>
SPIDERS		
<p>Brown Recluse Spiders</p>  <p>More about brown recluse spiders...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>The bite of the brown recluse spider is often not immediately painful, although a slight stinging sensation may be felt. This spider's venom includes a neurotoxic component, but the principal concern is its necrotic or cytotoxic properties, which cause it to destroy the tissue where it is injected. About seven hours after a bite, a small blister-like sore appears that will grow in size. There may be a generalized or systemic body reaction in sensitive individuals.</p> <p>Symptoms include chills, fever, bloody urine, fatigue, jaundice, pain in the joints, nausea, rash, and in extremely rare cases, convulsions and death. The amount of damage depends on the amount of venom injected. The damaged area may be the size of a dime or as large as 20 centimeters in diameter. Affected tissue becomes gangrenous, turns black, and eventually sloughs off, leaving a depression in the skin. Healing is slow and scar tissue results from the wound. Healing may take six to eight weeks or require up to a year if the wound is large.</p>	<p>These spiders are chocolate brown in color, and their bodies are about 9 millimeters in length with long legs. They have three pairs of eyes, arranged in a triad, and have a violin-shaped marking on the cephalothorax. The body of the "violin" is near the eyes and the neck of the "violin" extends backward, ending before the abdomen. Males are similar to females in appearance.</p>  <p>Brown Recluse Spider Bite (People react differently.)</p>

<p>Wolf Spiders</p>  <p>More about wolf spiders...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>The wolf spider will bite if handled or if trapped next to the skin. However, their venoms are not very harmful to humans. Typical reactions include initial pain and redness, which subsides with time. No serious medical consequences of these bites have been noted.</p>  <p>Wolf Spider Bite (People react differently.)</p>	<p>There are 13 species of wolf spider in our area, 2 are most common:</p> <p>Hogna carolinensis wolf spider females are 22 to 35 millimeters in length, and the males are 18 to 20 millimeters. The carapace is a dark brown with scattered gray hairs that are typically not arranged in any discernible pattern. The abdomen is similarly colored, with a somewhat darker dorsal stripe. The legs are a solid color.</p> <p>Hogna aspersa wolf spider females are 18 to 25 millimeters in length, and the males are 16 to 18 millimeters. They are similar to <i>H. carolinensis</i> in body color but have a distinct narrow line of yellow hairs on the carapace in the vicinity of the eyes. The legs are banded with a lighter brown color at the joints. The males are much lighter in color than the females, and only their third and fourth pairs of legs are banded with a lighter color.</p>
TERMITES		
<p>Termites</p>  <p>More about termites...</p> <p>(Back to Contents)</p>	<p>Termites can collapse a building entirely. The hard, saw-toothed jaws of termites work like shears and are able to bite off extremely small fragments of wood, one piece at a time. When damage to the structural timbers of a building becomes evident, it is usually the result of years of infestation. Thus, damage by termites is not a sudden onslaught that will cause a building to collapse in a few days. Generally, termite problems only occur some years after construction – usually 10 years or more.</p> 	<p>The termite colony has three primary castes: workers, soldiers, and kings, queens, and secondaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers are creamy white, and seldom seen unless a termite tube or infested wood is broken open. • Soldiers have elongated yellowish heads with large jaws and are about the same size as the adult worker—a quarter-inch. • Kings and queens are dark-brown or black and about 3/8 to 1/2 inch long. They have two pairs of translucent wings of equal length, which break off shortly after swarming. Very often their shed wings are the only evidence that termites are in a building. • Secondaries are supplementary reproductive females that occur in mature colonies under favorable conditions.

WASPS, HORNETS

Baldfaced Hornets



More about
baldfaced hornets...

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Wasp venom wages a staged attack against the nervous system on a cellular level.

1. The stinger delivers the venom to the victim's blood stream.
2. Peptides and enzymes in the venom break down cell membranes, spilling cellular contents into the blood stream. When the cells in question are neurons, which serve the central nervous system, this breach causes the injured cell to send signals back to the brain. We experience these signals in the form of pain.
3. To make sure the pain keeps coming, other substances in the venom, such as norepinephrine, stop the flow of blood. This is why the pain of a wasp sting can last for several minutes, until the blood stream can carry the diluted venom away.
4. Finally, hyaluronidase and MCDP (mast cell degranulating peptide) pave the way for the membrane-destroying elements in the venom to move onto other cells by melting through the connective tissue between them. This spreading factor leads to the swelling and redness associated with most insect stings.

The baldfaced hornet gets its name from the ivory-white markings on the face. The thorax, legs and abdomen also have white markings.



Baldfaced Hornet Sting (People react differently.)



Paper Wasps



More about paper wasps...

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The **northern paper wasp**, is the native paper wasp of New England. It is found in a much larger area from Canada to Florida. It has been displaced by the introduced **European paper wasp** from coastal and urban areas over the last 35 years. Also known as the golden paper wasp, this species is blackish or dark brownish-red with transverse yellow bands on the abdomen. The facial patterns are highly variable. When in flight, their long slender legs dangle below their body. Their open nests are attached by a single thin stalk to an overhang.

The **European paper wasp** "waist" is very thin. During flight, the hind pair of legs trail below in an extended fashion. The nest is the characteristic upside-down umbrella shape, and the open cells can be seen from below. Cream-colored larvae are legless and remain within their cells until they emerge as adult wasps.

Cicada Killer Wasps



More about cicada killer wasps...

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Although Cicada Killer Wasps rarely sting unless disturbed, homeowners may become alarmed because of their very large size (nearly two inches). They appear in mid to late summer. One of the largest wasps encountered; although females are capable of stinging, they are rarely aggressive towards man or animals; males are incapable of stinging, but can be more aggressive; large numbers of females nesting in localized areas such as sandy embankments can be a nuisance and cause concern because of their large size, low flight and nesting activities; nest entrances are often accompanied by a pile of soil excavated from the burrow that may disturb turfgrass.

Cicada killer wasps reach up to 1-½ inch in length. Except for a rusty red head and thorax, they are overall black or rusty in color, with yellow band markings on the abdominal segments. They have russet colored wings.



Yellow Jackets



More about yellow jackets...

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3. To make sure the pain keeps coming, other substances in the venom, such as norepinephrine, stop the flow of blood. This is why the pain of a wasp sting can last for several minutes, until the blood stream can carry the diluted venom away.
4. Finally, hyaluronidase and MCDP (mast cell degranulating peptide) pave the way for the membrane-destroying elements in the venom to move onto other cells by melting through the connective tissue between them. This spreading factor leads to the swelling and redness associated with most insect stings.

Yellowjackets are house fly-sized wasps with distinct yellow and black head/face, patterned abdomen markings and a few hairs.

Yellowjackets construct a type of paper nest, tan in color, much smaller in size compared to the hornet nest, and is usually found in an underground cavity. Common locations for nests are in lawns, particularly in sandy exposed areas, as well as at the base of trees or shrubs. Occasionally, yellowjackets will nest in attics or walls voids of houses or storage buildings.

