

WASPS and HORNETS

Bald Faced Hornets



... are social wasps. They are predominantly black with white stripes around their thorax and abdomen. They're about one inch long, can fly very fast and are aggressive. Bald faced hornets create a nest from

cellulose that is grey and round with a single opening at the bottom. It ranges from softball in the spring, to beach ball size in the fall. Likely nest sites include trees, shrubs and around overhangs of buildings. Hornets can be aroused to sting in great numbers when the nest is disturbed or threatened.

Yellow Jackets



... are also social wasps. Slightly smaller and slower than hornets, yellow jackets are predominantly black with bright yellow markings building similar structured nests either in the ground, a log, wall voids or attics. Yellow jackets are commonly observed hovering back

and forth at the small nest opening or around garbage cans and other areas where they forage for food. They are usually not aggressive except when disturbed at the nest.

Paper Wasps



... are semi-social insects, 3/4 to 1 inch long varying in colour according to species. The umbrella-shaped nests of these slender, narrow-waisted wasps are a single layer of exposed brood cells suspended from a single, central stalk. They are

natural enemies of many garden insect pests, and thus are considered to be beneficial insects by many gardeners. Paper wasp nests can be dislodged from eaves using sprays of high pressure water from a good distance.

Mud Wasps/Daubers



... do not form colonies. They are solitary andrenid bees and are important pollinators of native plants. They usually nest in sun-exposed, dry areas of yards. Although there is just one bee per nest, many of these bees typically nest close to each other. They

may be found flying around their nests in the spring but are gentle and very rarely sting people since there is no "nest guarding" instinct. Sprinkling the area of their nests with water may be enough to encourage them to move as they avoid damp areas.

Visual Confirmation

Unless wasps become a threat we urge you to leave them alone. They play an important role in the ecological balance of your backyard, neighbourhood and local community.

In the case of social wasps, look for steady activity around a single opening. Without activity, it's probably an old empty nest. Wasps build a new nest from scratch each year and do not reuse the previous year's nest.

It is possible to have gatherings of wasps foraging for food without the nest being on your property. Look for the point of interest and remove the attraction.

Treatment

Treatment for social wasps is a residual and contact spray. Simply removing the wasp nest will not resolve the problem, because surviving wasps will reconstruct a new one. Treatments are successful any time of day since returning workers contact the residual and die. Outdoor insect repellents, such as coils, can be used to enjoy backyard activities. Traps can also be set up at a distance of 40 or 50 feet from your favourite areas to lure foraging insects away.

Application

Plan to stay away from the area for at least **1 hour** after application. Angry wasps may still try to protect the nest.

After Treatment

You will see the workers returning to the nest until dusk. Avoid contact with the treated nest for 24 hours. Within 10 days, any hatchlings will also have died rendering the nest inactive. To prevent secondary infestations by dermestids or other pests, remove the nest when *all activity has ceased*.