

WASPS



BIOLOGY

Wasps have four stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

Adult wasps have four sparsely veined, membranous wings, and most species have their abdomen joined to the thorax across a very narrow waist. Wasps have chewing mouth parts, for consuming their food and for pulping wood, often used to build the walls of their nests.

Wasps are relatively large insects that live in colonies of various sizes. Social wasps develop colonies with three castes: queens, drones, and workers. The drones are relatively short-lived males and serve only to fertilize the queens. The queens are long-lived wasps, and their major function is to initiate a colony and spend their lives laying eggs. The eggs and young are tended by non-fertile female workers which are wasps that can be very numerous in large colonies. Social wasps cooperatively feed their developing young on a continuous basis, often with chewed-up insects and other animal-derived foods.

Only the newly developed queen survives the winter. She will nest in a warm place, like under tree bark or siding. In the spring, the new queen makes a new nest, lays her eggs, and begins a new colony.

CONTROL

Wasp Spray

If you have a visible hanging nest then you can use a pressurized wasp spray or foam. Make sure this treatment is only done at night or when it is almost dark. As well, take care to wear proper safety equipment. They are not likely to exit the nest, but it is best to be prepared. You want to saturate the interior of the nest first, then follow up by saturating the entire exterior of the nest. Leave the nest for approximately 20 minutes before removing the nest. Make sure that before you remove the nest that there isn't any further activity.

When removing, take the same precautions as mentioned earlier. Be sure to remove the entire nest, including any pieces that fall to the ground during removal.



Insect Dust

If you are treating an area where wasps are frequently traveling in and out of a hidden nest (such as in the ground or in a crack on the side of the house) you should be using an insecticidal dust. The reason for the use of the dust over the spray in these situations is because when you spray into the cracks/holes, you aren't necessarily spraying the nest. You are more than likely spraying the back of a wall, missing the nest completely. Instead, using a properly labelled insect dust allows the insect to track it back to the nest.

Be sure to perform the treatment only at night, or when it is almost dark, and take the necessary safety precautions mentioned above.

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