

## Stinging Insects - Typical First Strikes by Housekeeping/Maintenance

- 1. Practice proper sanitation and wear a full bee suit or at least some white protective clothing a bee veil and beekeeping gloves. Bee sure to protect your throat!** Practice proper sanitation. Spills and dumpsters should be cleaned up regularly with ammonia, diluted Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner and/or borax. Never caulk an active nest/hole. Use a stethoscope to determine the exact location of a nest in a wall void. Yellowjackets are repelled by (empty) orange peels. Plastic barrier tape can be used to cordon off active infestation protect children from "investigating" the infested area. Dumpsters and garbage cans should be cleaned at least weekly during the summer. **Remember, stinging insects are very sensitive to disturbance of their nests! Most stinging insects will leave you alone if you leave them alone! Store all garbage in sealed plastic bags! Sanitation is your most important control tool. Use Safe Solutions Insect Repellent.**
- 2. Spray any visible stinging insects and nests with Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner (1 oz. per qt. water).** Spray paper wasps with soapy water to make them "drown." Use a hose-end sprayer filled with dish soap and/or enzyme cleaners to remove wasps, hornets, mud daubers and their nests, but the very best sprayer the Author has ever used is a 2½-gal. rechargeable fire extinguisher using diluted Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner with Peppermint, which does not leave any stains. You can also spray them with rubbing alcohol using a quart sprayer; be very careful of your eyes and keep out of the reach of children and pets!
- 3. Secure the sucking end of a vacuum by their nest opening at night.** If you use a rinse-and-vac fill it with 3" of soapy water; if you use a dry vac, add 1 tsp. talcum powder or 2 T. corn starch. If their nest opening is over 1", make it smaller. **Turn the vacuum on before dawn and let it run until dark. Repeat as needed.** Only after the nest is emptied should you caulk the opening. Duct tape, copper mesh, spackle, caulk, hydraulic cement and screens are exclusion materials that should be used abundantly. **Vacuums can also be used to remove stinging insects from inside the building. When vacuuming up a swarm (large mass of bees), do so by slowly removing the bees from the margins until you remove the entire swarm. Caution: Be sure the person who is doing the vacuuming is experienced and fully protected.**
- 4. Use glueboards and/or make 2-liter wasp traps** by cutting off the top (where the bottle begins to curve up), invert it into the bottle (like a funnel), duct tape the edges, add 2" - 3" of beer, Mountain Dew, grenadine, pineapple or apple juice, syrup from canned fruit, Blue Hawaiian Punch or sweet orange or grape pop (add some hamburger or fish flavored cat food if needed) and set out or hang from trees and facias wherever you see stinging insect activity. You can also make a good bait with a mixture of fruit juice and beer or some grenadine or pieces of ripened pears or apples or dog food, ham, fish or other meat scraps. Once inside the beer gives off its CO<sub>2</sub> which is heavier than air and pushes the air out. The CO<sub>2</sub> in the trap quickly suffocates the stinging insects. You can also use carbonated fruit juice or soda to get the same result. Hang some cans of 3/4 full Budweiser beer by their aluminum tabs from tree limbs as traps. The flies in fly traps will attract yellowjackets, who will then get caught in the same trap. **Sticky window fly scoops or fly paper or glueboards in window casings will often catch individual stinging insects as they fly to the light of the window. Yellow glueboards or Tanglefoot will work well, especially if you put a chemical lure, e.g., n-heptyl butyrate on them. Hang fish or liver over a pail of soapy water to kill yellowjackets. Turn off all but one light or darken all windows but one and vacuum them up. Bee careful!**
- 5. Dust ground nests** with talcum powder or Comet® or medicated body powder or food-grade DE and/or soak them thoroughly with Not Nice to Bugs or with diluted Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner with Peppermint and DE with a hose-end sprayer at night. Food-grade DE carefully injected into the nest does not normally even agitate the stinging insects and most colonies collapse within a few hours. Cover ground nests with plate glass for several weeks. **Bee careful!**
- 6. Rinse empty dumpsters with a hose then spray diluted enzyme cleaner or ammonia** to the point of run off and double bag and securely tie all trash. Install strong fans to literally blow yellowjackets away. Spray the clean dumpster with diluted borax (1½ cup per gallon of hot water). A garbage can with a tight-fitting lid or with a domed, fitted top with vertical swinging doors will keep yellowjackets away from the garbage. Use clean, disposable liners. Throw in some citronella or geraniol beads or a few drops of tea tree oil.
- 7. At night (with a red light) inject aerosol foam insulation into the entire nest** if it is in a tree cavity or in a log or in an exterior wall void. **Bee careful!**
- 8. You can "fumigate"** ground nests with carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide. **Bee careful!**
- 9.** If you have a ground nest in the fall, simply avoid the area until frost kills the nest, or you can carefully cover the area with a heavy black/dark visquine or plastic at night; keep it covered for 2 weeks. Be sure to weigh

the edges down. You can inject CO<sub>2</sub> under the tarp to hasten their demise.

**10. Never caulk or seal any nest site entrances until you are sure all activity has ceased.**

11. Make sweet liquid baits, e.g., light Karo syrup or grenadine or molasses, with 4% - 6% food-grade DE and or aspartame and/or borax and **place them out of reach of children and pets in yellow caps or dishes.**
12. Make a bait of 50% (orange or grape) soda and 50% corn syrup; soak some cotton balls with the bait and watch the gorged wasps or yellowjackets fly up at a 60° angle heading straight for their nests, flying up to a height of 60 - 80 feet (over the tree tops), always heading straight for the nests. They fly over the trees to keep the sun in view. They descend at a 60° angle to reach their nests. Sight down the route and/or use binoculars to follow them and manually kill the colony. You could also add some aspartame or food-grade DE or borax (about 4% - 6%) to the sweet baits or fish-flavored cat food and let the foraging workers kill the entire colony. **Keep baits out of the reach of children, pets and wildlife. Bee careful!**
13. If you have a colony of stinging insects up higher than you can safely reach to vacuum them, use a long piece of metal electrical conduit (EMT). Slide the conduit up right under the main opening, clamp it securely to the wall and attach a rinse-and-vac (with some soapy water) at the other end and vacuum them from dawn to dusk. You may need some duct tape to secure the conduit to the rinse-and-vac.
14. You can carefully dust Safe Solutions, Inc. food-grade diatomaceous earth into the nest; this should not initially alarm the colony, but will destroy it in a few hours.
15. **Aerosol Foam Insulation:** You can use this material to “permanently” seal voids in trees, playground pipes, etc. to stop stinging insects from building nests in these or any other voids. It can also be used at night - **very carefully** - to make “instant fossils”.
16. A combination of cold temperatures (to keep the adults from taking flight) and a deluge of water or heavy rain will quickly drown ground-dwelling wasps. Adding soap or enzyme cleaner to the water greatly enhances the kill.
17. Try making some fruit juice and aspartame baits to kill yellowjackets.
18. **If you still have stinging insects, read the rest of the chapter.**

**Always Remove the Aftermath** - If you insist on killing a colony inside your walls rather than vacuuming up the colony, always remember to remove the aftermath. Anytime you leave dead insects and/or honey in a wall void you will create the possibility of odors or an infestation of scavenging insects later.

\*Safe Solutions products may be purchased online at:

<http://www.safesolutionsinc.com>

or by telephone at:

1-888-443-8738.

