



Yellowjackets and Wasps

Yellowjackets are medium-sized black wasps with yellow or white markings. There are several species of yellowjackets:

some build nests aboveground in trees, or under the eaves of houses, others build nests below ground in burrows or holes. Yellowjackets are often very aggressive if their nest is disturbed.



The District can treat outdoor yellowjacket nests. For removal of nests inside walls or in structures, you will need to contact a qualified structural pest control operator.

Locating a Nest

You must know the specific location of the nest prior to treatment. Look for a line of yellowjackets entering and leaving an opening. Nests may also be in dense vegetation, wood piles, utility vaults, or rock walls. Yellowjackets are most active and easier to notice in the middle of the day. Carefully mark the location with a cone, flag, or other object. Don't get too close! A marker in the general area of the nest will help our technician locate it.



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The District only treats yellowjacket nests

Other stinging insects commonly confused with yellowjackets

- Paper Wasps: build nests under eaves of houses, not aggressive
- Carpenter Bees: bore holes in decaying wood, not aggressive, rarely sting
- Honeybees: contact San Mateo County Beekeeper's Guild for assistance



The District does not control honeybees.

- Bumblebees: not aggressive, only sting if handled



Yellowjacket sting prevention

- Yellowjackets are attracted to a variety of foods, including sugars, meats, and fats. When eating outdoors, keep food and drinks covered.
- Cover garbage bins or move them away from where you will be eating.
- Especially in hot weather, yellowjackets may be attracted to water. Cover water sources or move them away from patios, porches, and other areas where people spend time.
- If you use yellowjacket traps, place them far from tables where you will be eating.

If you are stung: If you disturb a nest, quickly leave the area. Use clothing to protect your face and seek shelter indoors. If you are stung many times or suspect you are allergic, seek medical attention immediately.
