

Bees

Contacts:

Critter Control

Bryant Guarino

Located in Midland TX

432-466-3147

May be open to live removal on a case by case bases

Alpine Pest Control

Phil Westerman

Located in Alpine TX

432-837-3996/ 432-294-1600

Extermination only

Larry Williams

Located in Ozona TX

325-226-0227

Live removal and extermination

The Bee Ranch

Scott Wassermann

Located in Alpine TX

432-837-7345

Will take calls on a case by case bases. Does not do structure removal. Happy to answer any questions.

Fire Department

Located in Alpine TX

432-837-3486 (dispatch)

Will only come out if a person or animal is being stung, they will spray with foam.

Info:

How to Get Rid of a Beehive

1. Give the bees space.

When dealing with insects that can sting, it's always wise to avoid provoking them. Most bee species only sting if they feel their hive or queen are threatened. Keeping your distance decreases the chances of an angry hive. A swarm of bees will typically gather on a branch, bush or post (a doorpost, fence post, etc.), surrounding the queen. Steering clear of this area should reduce the likelihood of stings.

2. Keep pets and people allergic to stings away from bee-infested areas.

If the hive or swarm is outside, you should keep your pets, children and anyone sensitive to insect stings inside, away from the bees. If there is a beehive inside your home, try to isolate the area.

3. Figure out where the bees are coming from.

If the hive is located inside your home, try to identify where the bees entered. However, do not attempt to block access to the hive, as this could result in the bees escaping into other areas of your home.

4. Avoid using spray insecticides or traps.

It's tempting to try to spray the hive or attempt to catch the bees inside a trap. Before you do, think about what could go wrong. Bee extermination is difficult for a number of reasons, including the fact that many commonly sold insecticides are banned for use near bees by the EPA. This means that the use of such products on bees is illegal. With traps, you wind up needing to dispose of a container full of angry insects. Moreover, if your trap isn't successful in capturing all of the bees, the rest of the hive will remain an issue.

5. Call a professional to handle bee removal.

If the bees in your yard are honey bees, it's likely that a local beekeeper may be able to take them off your hands at little to no cost, depending on the location of the hive or swarm. To find out if there are beekeepers in your area, check with the [American Beekeeping Federation](#) or [Apiary Inspectors of America](#). For other bee species, or large indoor hives, getting rid of bees may require consulting a pest management professional.

6. Remove all traces of the hive and repair any damage.

If you've had beehives taken out of your home or attic, be sure to clean up behind them. Bees in walls or cavities often leave behind honey and other residues that could attract animals and certain insects. To prevent a larger problem, be sure to get rid of any leftover honeycomb, repair damaged walls and seal the entry points bees used to get into your home.

By following these steps, you can minimize the risk of being stung and ensure that any bees stopping by your home won't remain there for long. Bee removal shouldn't be a solo endeavor — call an expert if you have questions.

11 Bee Facts And Myths

1. All bees sting.

Not all bees can sting. For example, male bees cannot sting. The stinger, or sting, is a modified egg-laying device, therefore only females have them. However, despite having a stinger, the females of many bee species actually cannot sting. Bees tend to sting to defend their nest, so most bees won't sting unless they are provoked or feel threatened.

2. Honey bees can sting their victim repeatedly.

Honey bee workers can sting other insects repeatedly. However, barbs in their stingers get caught in the skin of the animals they sting, especially mammals with thick skin such as humans. Removing the stinger is fatal to the bee, so it dies afterward.

3. Bee stings are always dangerous.

If you're not allergic to bee stings, the average person can tolerate 10 stings per one pound of body weight. Most adults can tolerate more than 1,000 stings. 500 stings may be fatal for children. Consult your doctor if you have questions or concerns about bee stings.

4. Fatal bee stings are common.

Bee stings can be deadly to people who are allergic to them. However, fatal bee stings are very rare. From 1999 to 2007, the Centers for Disease Control reported 509 deaths from wasps, hornets or bees stings, and fewer than 1 percent of children and 3 percent of adults are prone to anaphylaxis, the often deadly allergic reaction some experience in response to a sting.

5. Wasps are bees.

Although wasps belong to the same order of insects, they are not bees. Bees are vegetarians, collecting pollen and nectar for their young. Wasps are carnivores, and some species can be very aggressive, especially if you disturb their nests. Bees are usually non-aggressive, with the exception of Africanized bees, a species not commonly found in the United States.

6. People who are allergic to wasp stings are also allergic to bee stings.

Bee stings produce different toxins than wasp stings. Therefore, someone may be allergic to bee stings but not wasp stings, or vice versa.

7. Bee stings can be used to treat arthritis symptoms.

There isn't enough scientific evidence to support this claim.

8. All bees produce honey.

Less than 5 percent of bee species make honey. Only honey bees and stingless bees produce enough honey to make it worth harvesting. Bumble bee hives may have a small amount (one to two teaspoons). Bumble bees are annual, not perennial, so they don't need to produce a lot of honey to survive the winter.

9. Most bees live in hives.

Only social bees live in hives. 10 percent of bee species are social, and only a small percentage of them build hives. Most bees are solitary, living in individual nests tunneled in the soil or in tree trunks.

10. Bees are hard workers.

Honey bee, bumble bee and stingless bee worker bees (females) work very hard. However, many males don't do any work in the nest. Females of the solitary bee species may only work for a couple weeks.

11. Adult bees live a long time.

Solitary bees live only a few weeks—just long enough to mate, build nests and produce offspring. Honey and bumble bee workers and males live about six weeks. The workers spend half their time working on the hive and the other half foraging for pollen and nectar. The queens live longer. Bumble bee queens live up to one year, and honey bee queens can live up to four years.

Helpful Links:

<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/public/bee-identification/>

w3.biosci.utexas.edu/jha/about-native-bees

<https://npsot.org/wp/story/2012/2422/>