

Call **1-800-222-1222** if you have been bitten by an insect, spider, or snake.

SNAKES

Rattlesnakes

- Come in many colors and their heads are triangle shaped.
- Have a rattle on the end of their tail to warn away threats (does not always rattle before they bite)
- Their venom is injected through their fangs and can be very dangerous.



Copperheads

- Some are copper colored with dark brown bands that can be various shapes.
- Their venom is injected through their fangs and can be very dangerous.



Cottonmouth Water Moccasin

- Brown, olive, or almost black in color with a belly lighter than their body. The inside of their mouths are white like cotton.
- They are usually around water, but can also be on land.
- The venom is injected through their fangs, and can be very dangerous.
- Can be an aggressive snake and will stand its ground if it feels threatened.



Coral Snakes

- Small with bright colored bands on the body. The bright colors can attract children.
- The small fangs make it harder to inject venom, and bites from this snake are very rare. However, if venom is injected, the bite can be quite dangerous.



PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Insects or spiders

- Remove webs and/or insect nests if it is safe to do so.
- Keep your home clean and free of unnecessary debris.

Treatment

- Wash the area with soap and water.
- If there is itching, burning or pain, call your local poison center for help.
- If you are stung by a bee, take out the stinger by scraping with a blunt-edged object (like a credit card).
- If someone has trouble breathing, or if there is swelling around the lips or tongue, call 9-1-1.

Snakes

Prevention

- Be aware of your surroundings – the snake is not looking for you, so you must be on the look out for a snake.
- Do not approach a snake; if you see one, back away slowly.

Treatment (before going to the hospital)

- If bitten, no matter how small or minor the bite may seem, call 9-1-1 or the poison center immediately.
- Do not attempt to kill or capture the snake
- Remove constrictions, such as rings and watches in case of swelling.
- Keep calm and sit still with the affected limb elevated to heart level if help is on the way.
- Do NOT: cut the wound; put ice; take any medications; or apply a tourniquet.

POISON CENTER
1-800-222-1222
poisoncontrol.org



BITES & STINGS

GUIDE TO PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



TEXAS POISON CENTER NETWORK
poisoncontrol.org

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

Call **1-800-222-1222** to reach your local poison center.

INSECTS

There are many more insects that can bite and sting that are not listed here. For more information, call your local poison center.

Fireants

- Will attack if their ant mounds are disturbed.
- Can sting and bite multiple times, even when they are out of venom.
- The sting can cause pain and a burning sensation at the site. It may be followed by a small blister that forms within 24-48 hours after being bitten.



Scorpions

- There are 18 different kinds of scorpions in Texas that are not considered deadly, but their sting can be painful and allergic reactions can occur.
- Texas scorpions can be up to 3 inches long.



Bees and Wasps

- Most active during spring and fall when they are building their hives.
- Even though most bees can only sting once, you can be stung by many bees at the same time.
- If stung by a bee, remove the stinger by scraping it from the skin with a flat-edged object. Do not pinch or squeeze the stinger.
- Wasps have a painful sting and can sting more than once.



Centipedes

- They have a pair of legs on each body part, and do not usually have 100 legs.
- Their size can vary from 2 to 10 inches long.
- Their venom comes from a pair of claws under their head. Their bite can hurt and may cause swelling, but it will not last long.



Brown Recluse

- Sometimes called “fiddle back” for the brown violin shape on its back.
- They range from 1/4 to 3/4 of an inch in size. With the span of their legs, they can be the size of a half dollar.
- They live in dark places where there is little activity.
- If bitten, you may feel a little sting or severe pain. Fever, chills, weakness, and pain may follow after 24-48 hours.
- The bite can become a wound after the first day. If you think you were bitten by a brown recluse, call your local poison center right away.



Black Widow

- The female is small (about 1.5 inches) black and hairless, with a red hourglass shape on her belly.
- The male is smaller and is mainly brown with orange or white markings. Young female black widows can look like males.
- They usually stay as far away from people as possible.
- Females bite if they feel threatened or to protect their egg sac.
- You may begin to feel pain 1 to 3 hours after the bite, and it can range from mild to severe. The venom can cause problems with your breathing. If you think a black widow has bitten you, call your local poison center right away.



Tarantulas

- They are not normally aggressive spiders. If threatened or cornered, they may bite.
- They have venom, but are not usually harmful.
- Tarantulas can “throw” their hairs, causing a rash if the hairs get in your skin.



Emergency. Information. Prevention.

**CALL US FIRST,
24 HOURS A DAY,
365 DAYS A YEAR!**

OUR SERVICES ARE FREE