

# IDENTIFYING BEE AND WASP NESTS

Bumblebees, honey bees, hornets and yellow jackets may look alike from a distance, but their impact on your health, your yard and the ecosystem varies by species. Knowing how to recognize each species' nest can help identify which of these buzzing insects are making themselves at home in your backyard – and allow for safe removal of any nests on your property.



## Bumblebees

Bumblebees are not overly aggressive and rarely sting unless disturbed or threatened. These resourceful bees build nests that typically contain far fewer members than honey bees.



### STRUCTURE:

More disorganized than honey bee nests



### MATERIALS USED:

Dry grass or plant material surrounded by wax cells



### LOCATION:

Dry, protected and hidden cavities below ground, on or near ground level, such as:

- Rodent tunnels
- Structural voids
- Piles of leaves
- Abandoned bird nests

# Honey Bees

Although one of the most popular bees, honey bees only represent a small percent of bee species and build nests to produce and store honey.



## STRUCTURE:

Impressively large nests made of six-sided tubes that create honey combs



## MATERIALS USED:

Wax bonded to honey comb cells



## LOCATION:

Areas that scout bees believe are appropriate for their colony, such as:

- Inside tree cavities
- Under edges of objects
- On rock crevices



## STRUCTURE:

Excavated galleries made up of tunnels with a round, drill hole-size entrance



## MATERIALS USED:

Wood pulp, sticks, twigs



## LOCATION:

Dry, unpainted and weathered wooden objects, particularly:

- Railings
- Roof eaves
- Window sills
- Doors
- Decks
- Fences

# Carpenter Bees

These excavators feed on plant pollen and nectar and are known for their ability to construct nests in wooden structures.



# Hornets

When hornets perceive threats near their hives, they become aggressive and can deliver painful stings. For this reason, it is important to safely remove any nests on your property.



## STRUCTURE:

Ball-shaped and made of gray, paper-like material



## MATERIALS USED:

Saliva, wood pulp



## LOCATION:

Areas with plenty of shade and protection from the elements, such as:

- Trees
- Bushes
- Eaves
- Roofs



## STRUCTURE:

Multi-layered, expansive nests made of paper-like material with 500 to 15,000 cells



## MATERIALS USED:

Saliva and wood pulp



## LOCATION:

Shaded, protected areas, for example:

- Hollow trees
- Wall voids
- Inside structures like sheds, garages and attics
- In the ground

# Yellow Jackets

Yellow jackets are wasps that eat grubs, flies and other pests. Although they are often mistaken for bees, their nests vary greatly in appearance.



# Paper Wasps

Also known as umbrella wasps, paper wasps' nests do not have an outer shell and often look like an umbrella.



## STRUCTURE:

Single-layered, papery nests with numerous compartments



## MATERIALS USED:

Saliva and plant material



## LOCATION:

Attached to exterior home surfaces, such as:

- Fences
- Branches
- Twigs
- Eaves
- Door and window frames
- Any crack, gap or sheltered place like gas grills, play sets and mailboxes



## STRUCTURE:

Cluster of nests generally plastered side by side



## MATERIALS USED:

Mud and dirt



## LOCATION:

Shaded, protected areas, for example:

- Building structures
- Walls

# Mud Daubers

These long, thin wasps are solitary insects that are experts at building nests from mud.



# Buzz Off!

Stings from bees and wasps are painful and can cause severe allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. But, it's important that pollinators like the honey bee are protected, as these bees are crucial for the ecosystem. That's why it is important to have a professional safely remove bee and wasp nests from your home. To make your property less attractive to these stinging pests:



- Clean up outdoor spills right away



- Keep outdoor trash cans covered with a tight-fitting lid



- Plant flowers away from commonly accessed areas



- Paint, stain and weather-treat wooden structures



- Remove debris from the yard

**KEEP BEES AND WASPS FROM BECOMING  
THE BUZZ AROUND YOUR HOME.**

If you see a nest on your property, call Orkin Canada right away  
for an inspection and proper removal.



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