

Locating and Marking A Yellowjacket Nest

We are happy to eliminate yellowjacket nests in areas where people are likely to be stung, but you must know the general location of the nest. Look for areas of concentrated yellowjacket activity, especially a line of yellowjackets entering and leaving an opening or a cluster of yellowjackets guarding an opening. Nests may also be in dense vegetation, wood piles, utility vaults, or rock walls. You may have to wait until the middle of the day when the yellowjackets are most active.

Once you have located the nest, carefully mark the location with a cone, flag, or other object so the technician can find it. Don't get too close! As long as the marker is in the general area of the nest our technician will be able to locate it.

District services are free to residents of San Mateo County. To request services:

**Call (650) 344-8592
or visit www.smcmvcd.org**

San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Protecting Public Health since 1916

The San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District is an independent special district devoted to safeguarding the health and comfort of the citizens of San Mateo County through a planned program to reduce mosquitoes and other vectors of disease.

OUR SERVICES

for San Mateo County Residents

Mosquito Surveillance & Control

Mosquito Fish Delivery

Tick Identification & Education

Insect Identification & Education

Rodent Inspections & Surveys

Yellowjacket Control

Public Education

Vector-Borne Disease Surveillance

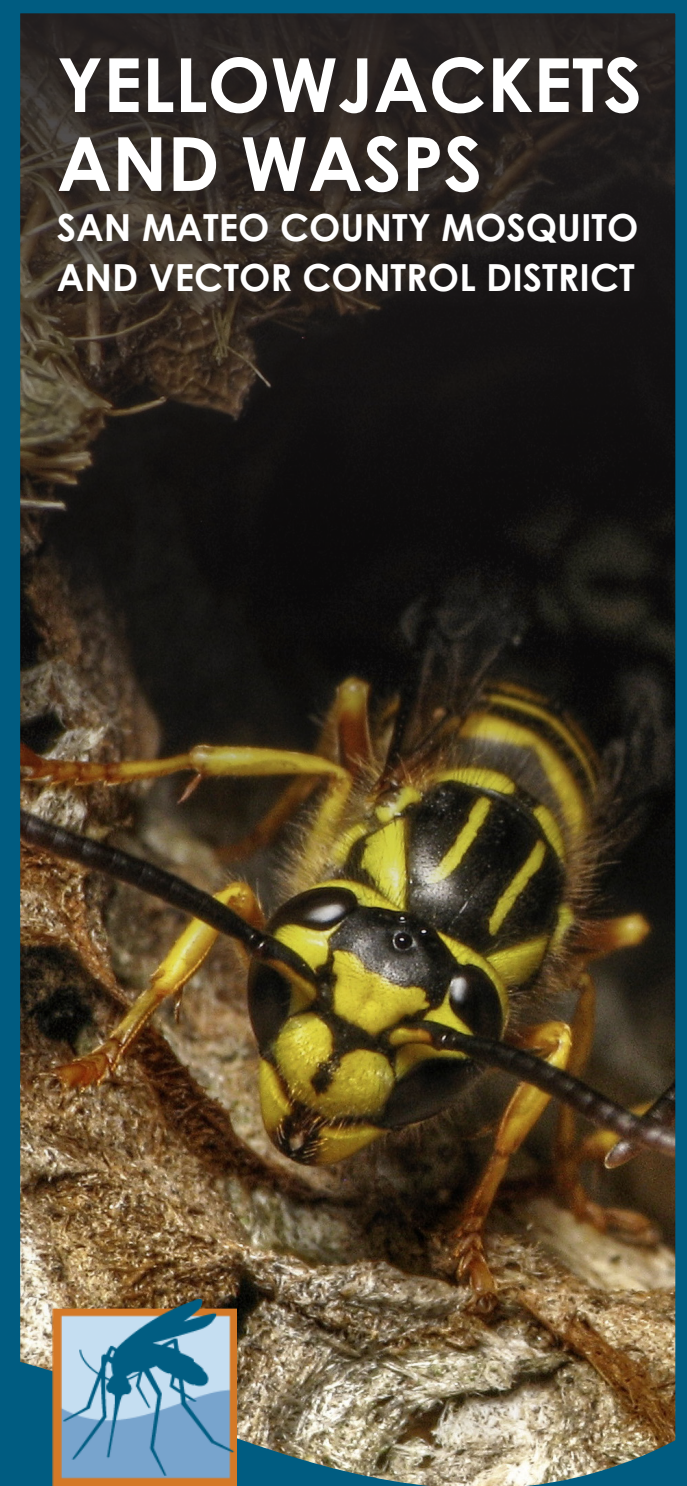


(650) 344 - 8592
1351 Rollins Road
Burlingame, CA 94010

Monday-Friday
8a.m. to 4:30p.m.
www.smcmvcd.org

YELLOWJACKETS AND WASPS

SAN MATEO COUNTY MOSQUITO
AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



Protecting Public Health since 1916

YELLOWJACKETS

Yellowjackets are medium-sized black wasps with yellow or white markings. There are several species of yellowjackets: some build aerial nests, while others build subterranean nests. Aerial yellowjacket nests are built in trees, utility poles, or under the eaves of houses and are about the size of a basketball. Subterranean nests are constructed in rodent burrows, tree cavities, or ground holes. Ground-nesting yellowjackets are often very aggressive if their nest is disturbed.

OTHER STINGING INSECTS

PAPER WASPS

Paper wasps are non-aggressive and tend to build softball-sized nests under the eaves of houses. These nests can often be taken down with a broom or water from a hose when there is no activity.

CARPENTER BEES

Carpenter bees bore holes in decaying wood. They may cause damage to structures, but are not aggressive and rarely sting. You can discourage them by keeping your home in good repair.

HONEYBEES

Honeybees are a domesticated species that lives in large colonies, both managed and feral. The District does not control or eradicate honeybees, honeybee hives, or honeybee swarms. Please contact the San Mateo County Beekeeper's Guild or a local beekeeper for assistance.

BUMBLEBEES

Bumblebees rarely cause problems for people, and only sting if handled.

PREVENTING STINGS

Foraging yellowjackets are not aggressive, but will sting if swatted at or handled. You can reduce the likelihood of being stung by taking steps to avoid attracting yellowjackets.

COVER FOOD & DRINKS

When eating outdoors, keep food and drink covered. Check food and cups before putting them to your mouth; there may be yellowjackets on or inside them.

DRESS DEFENSIVELY

Avoid bright colors and scented products. These may attract yellowjackets.

KEEP GARBAGE AWAY

Yellowjackets are attracted to a variety of foods, including sugars, meats, and fats. Cover garbage bins or move them away from where you will be eating.

ELIMINATE STANDING WATER

Especially in hot weather, yellowjackets may be attracted to water. Cover water sources or move them away from patios, porches, and other areas people spend time.

YELLOWJACKETS AND WASPS INSIDE STRUCTURES

We can help with outdoor yellowjacket nests, but District technicians are NOT licensed to perform structural pest control. For removal of bee and wasp nests inside walls or in structures, you will need to contact a qualified pest control operator.

IF YOU ARE STUNG

If they sense a threat to themselves or their nest, yellowjackets defend themselves by delivering a powerful sting which causes pain, swelling and itching. Multiple stings are common when a yellowjacket nest has been disturbed.

If you accidentally disturb a nest and yellowjackets attack you, leave the area as quickly as you can. Use clothing to protect your face, eyes, and mouth. Seek shelter indoors or in a vehicle if possible.

Once you are safely away from the nest, brush away any remaining yellowjackets. Apply cold water or an ice pack to stings and lower the affected extremity.

People who are allergic to yellowjacket venom may develop serious medical problems if stung. If you have been stung many times, or if you suspect you may be allergic to yellowjacket venom, seek medical attention immediately. Do not wait for symptoms to develop. If any of the following signs or symptoms develop after an insect sting, call 911 immediately to seek emergency medical attention:

- Respiratory distress, wheezing, or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or tightness
- Hives, itching or burning of the skin, or swelling of the limbs
- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or airway
- Dizziness, faintness, or unconsciousness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Weak, rapid pulse