

Get to know the European wasp around camping & picnic sites!

European wasps (eWasp) are attracted to meat, fruit, sugary foods, and drinks. eWasp nests will mainly be found in a hole in the ground around riverbanks or creek lines. eWasps look for protein in the form of meat and look for sugars (carbohydrates) in soft drinks.

Do not disturb or play around eWasp nests!
Stay clear and report all eWasp nests to the eWasp Hotline

“When a nest is disturbed, eWasps emit an alarm pheromone summoning the rest of the colony to defend the nest”

Precautions against the European Wasp

- Cover all food during BBQs or picnics.
- Clean all dishes and barbecue plates after eating and immediately put rubbish bags in secured bins or vehicles.
- Place all left over food in sealed containers.
- Do not leave fruit lying around, make sure they are in sealed bags/containers.
- Rubbish and left-over food will attract wildlife and eWasps.
- Do not hang rubbish bags from trees or tent poles.
- When fishing, keep fish and bait in sealed containers and/or in your vehicle.
- Make sure your tent is closed/zipped up to ensure no eWasps fly in looking for food.
- Do not leave soft drinks, beer or wine open and unattended. Ensure all lids are on bottles and use a straw to drink from soft drink cans. eWasps are known to crawl into soft drink cans, and without knowing it, can sting you in the mouth and throat when taking a sip/drink.

First Aid

- Use a cold pack to reduce swelling and pain.
- Use pain-relieving medication and creams.
- If there is evidence of a more severe reaction or the sting victim is known to be allergic to wasp and bee venom, seek immediate medical attention.
- Warn other visitor's/campers of the eWasp presence in the area.
- Be eWasp aware, no matter where you camp.

Contact

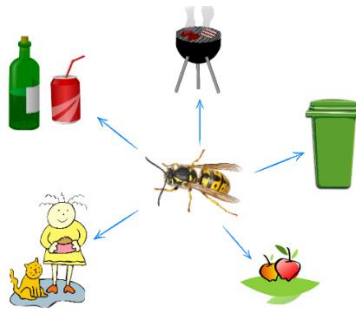
Report eWasp nests to the eWasp Hotline.

eWasp Hotline: [02 6258 5551](tel:0262585551),

eWasp Mobile App available free in both the App & Google Play Stores or email info@ewasp.com.au

You can reduce the population of European wasps around your home and reduce the risk of stings in a number of ways:

- Pick up any fallen fruit from trees or food scraps lying around your property.
- Feed pets inside the house or after dark outdoors. Avoid leaving uneaten pet food or dog bones outside.
- Ensure that your outdoor rubbish bins have tight-fitting lids.
- Cover compost bins.
- Keep your swimming pool covered when not in use.
- Cover food during a barbecue or picnic.
- Don't leave food, drink or pet food outside.
- Don't drink straight from a can or bottle when outside, as it could contain a wasp – check drink cans or bottles before drinking from them, use clear containers or drink from a straw.
- Inspect your garden/yard on a weekly basis for possible nests.
- If you see an eWasp, leave it alone – it will only attack if provoked.



Things to remember:

Unlike a bee, which can only sting once, eWasps can sting repeatedly.

Around 1 in 10 people who are stung two or more times become allergic, which means they will experience severe reactions to any subsequent stings.

It is strongly recommended that you hire a professional pest controller to destroy any wasp nests on your property.

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Note: eWasp nests in wall cavities can cause hundreds of dollars in damage! Before spring arrives, inspect your property, e.g. brick work, eaves, windows, and doorways etc for holes, seal the holes with no gaps to **minimise** the risk of eWasp nests being established in wall cavities.

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How to decrease the likelihood of being stung

If you are venturing outdoors in the summer months, here are some measure you can take to avoid being stung by bees/wasps.

Firstly, fast movements agitate bees/wasps; therefore, you are more likely to be stung/attacked when you make fast, erratic movements. Don't panic, the key is to move slow when you are near these insects. Don't ever swat at them or flap your arms in panic. The best thing to do when a bee/wasp is flying near/around you, is to stand still or walk slowly away from the area.

Try not to wear perfume, scented soap, bright flowering clothes, these things will attract bees/wasps to you. Wearing black and other dark colours is not good also, they too seem to agitate bees/wasps. Dark colours are associated with bears which are natural predators of bees/wasps, this behaviour is in the bees/wasp's DNA. It is best to wear white and other neutral colours.

If you disturb a nest, move away from the area as quickly as possible.

Always be aware of your surroundings when outdoors. Most stinging incidents occur when a person accidentally disturbs a nest that they did not know was there.



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