

Stinging insect safety

How to avoid insect stings

Risk of exposure

Arizona State University campuses are situated in the Sonoran Desert, which is home to stinging insects such as bees, hornets and wasps.

Warmer temperatures cause an increase in the presence of stinging insects.

Misunderstanding insect behavior can cause panic and increase the risk of getting stung.

Bees will sting when provoked, threatened or feel the need to defend their hive.

Tips to avoid stings



- Avoid bee swarms and colonies when possible
- Bathe regularly
- Check for flying insects in the area before working on landscaping or buildings
- Do not wear fragrances
- Wear clean, clothing and close-toed shoes. Avoid bright colors or floral print.

Prevent insect stings

Do not swat at the insect

Swatting may cause an insect to sting

Remain calm and still

If a few insects are flying around, stay calm and slowly walk away from the area.

If an insect stings you, or many insects start to fly around, cover your mouth and nose and quickly leave the area.

Go indoors

When a bee stings, it releases a chemical that attracts other bees. Seek cover in a building or closed vehicle.

If you notice a bee inside your vehicle, safely pull over and open all the windows.

First aid

1. Carefully remove the stinger by scraping a fingernail or flat object over the area. **Do not** squeeze the stinger.
2. Wash the site with mild soap and water. Dry the area and apply ice to reduce swelling.
3. Avoid scratching the area of the sting. This can increase the chance of swelling and infection.
4. Monitor for allergic reactions and call 911 or seek immediate medical attention if signs of allergic reaction occur such as breathing becomes difficult or if you are stung multiple times.

Moderate reactions can occur and will resolve in five to 10 days.

Seek medical attention if reactions to stings becomes more severe over time.

Report stinging insect activity

Two ways to report stinging insect activity or hives on ASU's campus.

1. Use the ASU [LiveSafe app](#). | Tap: tips>other>send details
2. Email ASU [Facilities Maintenance](#).

To request hive removal, submit an [online request form](#).

Learn more about sting prevention and symptoms

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | Sting prevention](#)

[Mayo Clinic | Symptoms](#)

If you have any questions, [email ASU EHS](#) or call 480-965-1823.