



# BEEES AND WASPS ARE BAD FOR BUSINESS

**A Practical Guide  
To Managing Nuisance  
Honey Bee And Wasp Activity  
In Commercial Environments**





# BEEES AND WASPS ARE BAD FOR BUSINESS

Nuisance honey bee and wasp activity near people creates anxiety and unnecessary risk. For commercial environments, unmanaged bee and wasp activity can lead to:

1. **Human Safety Concerns** — including painful stings and allergic reactions
2. **Employee Exposure** — in entrances, patios, loading docks, and waste areas
3. **Guest Discomfort** — reduced use of outdoor spaces, and complaints
4. **Business Impact** — Operational disruption, liability exposure, and reputational damage
5. **Legal Exposure** — if problems are ignored or not handled well



# THE SOLUTION IS PREVENTION

With responsible prevention, monitoring, and early intervention, you can keep nuisance honey bees and wasps away and ensure your commercial environment stays safe. We'll show you how ...



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# FIRST, LEARN **VISUAL** IDENTIFICATION

The following pages offer a quick guide to help you more effectively identify whatever insect is causing an issue for you. Proper identification allows for superior communication with a professional pest control operator, should you end up needing assistance from one.

*NOTE: This guide is for awareness only and is not a substitute for professional identification. Aculeo cannot be held responsible for any issues arising from misidentification. If activity appears defensive, concentrated, or escalating, avoid direct interaction and follow established safety or reporting protocols.*



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# HONEY BEES

- Rounder or fuzzy appearance
- Muted, softer coloration
- Usually yellow and black but can sometimes be very dark
- Steady flight paths, often returning to the same location
- Typically calm unless threatened
- Tend to be drawn to sugary drinks, trash areas, water sources, and flowering plants
- Might be found flying in and out of structures, walls, or other cavities
- Forage for water by landing on the bank of the water sources; will not land on water
- Repeated presence may indicate nearby recruitment to a food or water source or infestation
- If swarming, can appear as a large cloud of flying individuals or as a football-sized cluster hanging from a tree, bush, or building

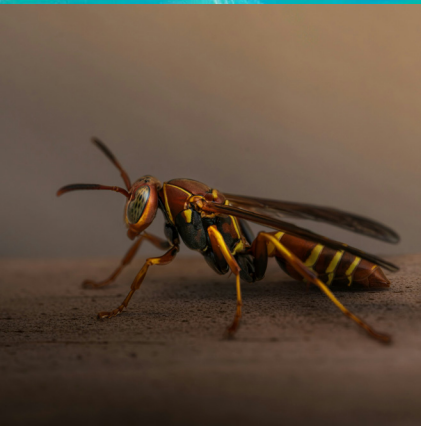


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# WASPS & HORNETS



- Slim bodies with smooth, shiny surfaces; narrow “hourglass figure”
- Bright, high-contrast coloration
- Coloration ranges greatly by species but often primarily yellow, black, white, or brown
- Often display faster, more-erratic flight patterns
- Actively investigate and forage protein based food, sugary drinks, and trash areas
- Some species land on water to drink
- Often smaller in number but with larger bodies than honey bees
- Can sting multiple times and respond defensively
- Nests location and size vary greatly depending on species

# SO, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE NUISANCE HONEY BEE OR WASP ACTIVITY?

Unfortunately, many of the most common responses actually *increase* risk.



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# TRY TO **AVOID:**

- **Swatting and batting at the insect**

At best this does nothing, at worse this can cause an increased risk of stings

- **Untrained intervention**

Untrained individuals should never attempt to resolve dangerous honey bee and wasp issues as it can create a dangerous situation. Reach out to a local professional for help

- **Improper use of pesticide or devices**

Including using wasp killer on honey bee hives or swarms

- **Closing or blocking a living hive entrance**

This will often drive honey bees back into a structure causing them to come out into human inhabited areas. Returning foragers will also cluster around the entrance, increasing the alarmed number of honey bees in the immediate environment

- **Delaying early action**

Many problems will get worse with time and many pest control operators will evaluate a situation for free or for a small fee

- **Waiting until activity escalates**

Late-stage responses are usually more disruptive, more dangerous, and more costly



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# THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE.

Focus on prevention, monitoring, and early intervention. Don't wait to react until you've already got a big problem on your hands. Safer management starts *before* escalation.



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# WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW:

## **Environmental & Structural**

- Seal cracks, voids, soffits, and utility penetrations
- Repair damaged siding, roofing, and fascia
- Screen vents and openings with #5 or higher screen (¼ inch too large to block bees)

## **Sanitation**

- Keep dumpsters and trash cans sealed and positioned away from entrances
- Use waste containers with self closing lids to limit insect access
- Clean food and beverage spills promptly
- Regularly change trash liners; promptly change them if the bin is full of waste

## **Landscaping**

- Limit flowering plants near entrances and seating areas
- Maintain trees and hedges to reduce activity zones
- Avoid sweet-smelling materials near high-traffic human areas



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# BREAK THE **PATTERN**, CHANGE THE BEHAVIOR

Bees and wasps rely on communication about, and repeated recruitment to, food and water sources. Behavior-based deterrence focuses on interrupting these patterns early, helping reduce repeated activity near people.

## **A Prevention-First Approach:**

- Targets specific nuisance behaviors, like sugar or water foraging
- Reduces repeated recruitment to problem areas
- Complements Integrated Pest Management programs
- Prioritizes safety while respecting pollinators



# WHEN TO ACT?

**It's time to upgrade your honey bee and wasp management efforts when you observe:**

- Repeated activity at the same location
- Increasing defensiveness or agitation
- Activity near high-traffic guest or employee areas
- Staff or customer complaints
- A late-season increase in activity around human sources

In nearly all cases, it's best to act promptly as early action limits disruption and reduces risk.





# STINGING INSECT ACTION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Identify high-risk zones across your property (see above)
- ☐ Schedule early-season inspections from a reputable company
- ☐ Reduce food, water, and shelter sources
- ☐ Incorporate prevention and deterrence strategies such as those available from Aculeo
- ☐ Train staff on observation and prompt reporting
- ☐ Monitor results and adjust seasonally



# RESPECT POLLINATORS. PROTECT PEOPLE. REDUCE **RISK.**

A prevention-first approach helps create safer, more comfortable commercial spaces, with less risk and more success.

*Questions about your specific situation?*

Contact us here: ***hello@aculeo.co***



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