

# Carpenter Bee

Scientific Name: *Xylocopa virginica*



## Identification Tips:

<b>Color</b>	Resemble the bumblebee except that bumblebees have dense yellow and black hairs on the abdomen and large pollen baskets on hind legs, while carpenter bees have a nearly naked black, shiny abdomen
<b>Legs</b>	6
<b>Size</b>	Adults are about 1 inch long
<b>Identifying Characteristics</b>	Shiny, black abdomen; seen hovering around weathered and unpainted woods, although they will nest in a wide range of woods, they prefer softwoods such as cedar, redwood, cypress, pine, and fir

## Characteristics of this insect:

- Solitary insects that do not form colonies. Usually are nuisance pests that cause cosmetic instead of structural damage. Considerable wood damage can occur as a result of many generations enlarging existing galleries in the wood
- Male and female carpenter bees overwinter in old nest galleries, emerging in the spring to mate
- The female prefers to utilize existing holes as opposed to excavating a new one. When constructing a new nest, female utilizes strong jaws to excavate a clean-cut, ½ inch wide entrance hole. The hole is perpendicular to the grain for one to two inches then makes a right angle turn (90 degrees) and excavates along the wood grain for four to six inches or more to create a gallery (tunnel)
- The gallery will consist of six to ten eggs that are sectioned off and laid upon a mixture of pollen and regurgitated nectar to feed upon. The female carpenter bee will die soon after
- The new adults remain in gallery for several weeks, chew through the partition, and venture outside in late August

## Is this insect harmful to me?

The carpenter bee is typically not that aggressive. The male that becomes aggressive and swarms after you does not have a stinger. The female has a stinger, but it is rarely used.



### Why are they in my structure?

There is no particular reason why your structure or nearby surroundings were chosen to be a nesting site. Perhaps the structure has unpainted, weathered wood or is constructed of softwood for which the carpenter bee is attracted.

### Can I treat the problem myself?

Effective control by the homeowner is unlikely due to the fact that the carpenter bee holes need to be individually treated and that they are located at heights that require a ladder. Please remember that products may be harmful to you and your family if they are misused or misapplied and should be handled by a professional.



## ***What can Apex do for me?***

An Apex representative will spend time interviewing the homeowner in order to ascertain where the individual carpenter bee holes are located and assessing if an exterior power spray is required for better control. That being said, Apex can provide you with a one-time application or a preventative maintenance plan.

**One-Time Treatment:** An interview with the homeowner is conducted along with a detailed inspection of the outside of the structure. Time is spent determining the most effective application and then a targeted application of product is made to rid your home or surroundings of these unwanted guests. The treatment spot is guaranteed for the remainder of the season.

**Pest Prevention Plan:** Quarterly inspections and treatments are performed to keep your home pest free year around. Free service calls are provided whenever a pest outbreak occurs. Being that a variety of general insect problems are covered, this is a cost effective way to maintain the integrity of your home and is the **recommended treatment of Apex.**

## ***Is the treatment safe for my children and pets?***



Since 1969, Apex has always operated with one goal in mind: *“The safety of people, pets, places, and the environment is our first concern.”* Therefore, we will utilize crack and crevice and spot applications, baits, monitors, habitat modification recommendations, and natural products as a method of treatment when possible. When conventional treatments are required, our licensed technicians are trained to apply the products so as to not pose a problem to people or their pets. All conventional products are EPA registered and our technician will advise you of any necessary precautions.

## ***What should I do now?***

Call our office at 1-800-MUG-A-BUG (1-800-684-2284) to discuss your problem with a knowledgeable customer service representative. Otherwise, sign up for a free online quote today!

*Carpenter bee image and related images courtesy of the University of Florida (<http://www.entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures>)*

<http://www.apexpestcontrol.net/> **1-800-MUG-A-BUG**

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