

Bald-Faced Hornet

Scientific Name: Dolichovespula maculata



Identification Tips:

Color	Largely black in color with white face
Legs	6
Size	Adults are 5/8 to 7/8 inch long; Queens are about 3/4 to 1 1/8 inch long
Identifying Characteristics	Colored black with white pattern on face, white stripes on thorax and white bands on last 3 abdominal segments; construct aerial nests

Characteristics of this insect:

- Social insects that consist of workers that are sterile females, queens which are the fertile females, and males that appear in later summer from unfertilized eggs
- Live in aerial nests. They attach nests to low shrubs, high trees or high buildings. Nests are not reused the next season
- Only the inseminated queen overwinters and in the spring, builds a grayish paper nest shaped like an inverted pear. One egg is laid in each cell and the queen initially feeds developing larvae chewed up insects, spiders, and nectar. By late September the nests consist of 3 to 5 disk-like paper combs attached one below the other and encased in a multi-layered envelope
- Nest size varies from less than 2000 cells to 3500 cells that contain 100 to 400 workers at its peak. At the end of the season, the founding queen (not the newly emerged queens and males that left the nest and mate), workers, and males all die

Why are they in my structure?

There is no particular reason why your structure or nearby surroundings were chosen to be a nesting site for the aerial nest of this insect.

Is this insect harmful to me?

Potentially, yes. While not everyone may be allergic to a sting, reactions in the skin such as mild pain, swelling, and redness may occur. Hives, difficulty breathing, swallowing, hoarseness, swelling of the tongue, dizziness and fainting are signs of a severe allergic reaction. The most serious allergic reaction is called anaphylaxis which can be fatal.



Can I treat the problem myself?

Effective control by the homeowner is unlikely due to the sheer number of occupants in the nest and the worrisome fact of being stung and the medical concerns that may arise. If the nest is high in a tree, you can leave it alone. Children should avoid throwing objects at this nest as this insect will vigorously defend the nest and the stings are painful. 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 as to where the bald-faced hornets have been seen and assessing if and what treatment options are available. 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!

Bald-faced image 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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