

HOT NEWS

A WASP NEST? THE BEST ANSWER MAY BE JUST TO LET IT BE.

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Several species of wasps, including paper wasps, yellow jackets and hornets, construct gray, paper-like nests made of wood or foliage chewed up and expectorated by the insects. Regardless of the species, these wasps have two things in common; (1) they can sting and (2) they are beneficial insects because they eat spiders and potential pest insects. These two seemingly opposite characteristics (good and bad) make the call on whether to destroy the wasp nest a difficult decision.

Certainly nobody wants to be stung by a wasp. A wasp nest found in a place where there is a likelihood of people bumping into or getting very close to the nest should be removed. This can be done by a professional pest management company or by using wasp killing aerosol chemicals designed to be sprayed from a distance.

On the other hand, a nest that is found high in a tree or under the eaves of a home can usually be left alone without any adverse results. Simply alerting people to the location of the nest, so that they are aware of its presence, is usually enough to prevent accidental encounters.

By leaving the nest alone, a homeowner can decrease the danger of being stung while trying to kill the wasps, save on the chemical cost of controlling it, and increase the natural pest control in the yard. When the nest is located in a wall void or in a building, by leaving the nest alone a homeowner also can save the costs of breaking into the wall to remove the nest. After the wasps have been killed, large nests containing food stores as well as immature larvae soon begin to rot and stink if not removed. Additionally, other insect and rodent pests may be attracted to the dying nest.

Most home owners do not realize that wasp nests are cleaned out each fall by the wasps themselves. The empty nests contain nothing but the outside paper shell at that time. This too will break down and disintegrate through the winter. Wasps do not re-use the same nest from season to season, so letting mother nature take care of them through time is usually the best control method we have.

