



Minnesota Poison Control System

www.mnpoison.org

BITES, STINGS, AND OTHER THINGS

Bees, Wasps, Hornets, and Yellow Jackets

Most people who are stung by an insect will have redness, itching, swelling, and some pain around the sting site. Some people may get hives, rash, itching palms and feet. Some people may get headache, feel dizzy, feel nauseous, may vomit, or may have trouble breathing.

If you are stung and have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest hospital or doctor right away for treatment!



Safety Tips

To avoid being stung, be extra careful when you are in or around areas where stinging insects are found. Stinging insects are found around flowers, plants, garbage cans, picnic grounds, and other places where food is kept. If you are walking in grassy areas or doing yard work, wear long pants, long sleeves, a hat, gloves, and shoes.

First Aid

- If a stinger is present, do not touch or squeeze it, this may force venom (poison) into the skin.
- Call the Minnesota Poison Control System at 1-800-222-1222 for treatment advice.

Fire Ants

Fire ants become angry when they are disturbed. These insects may sting several times. If you are stung, treat as you would a bee sting.



Scorpions

The sting of a scorpion is like the sting of a bee or wasp. If you are stung, treat as you would a bee sting.



Saddleback Caterpillars

The Saddleback Caterpillar is bright green with a brown "saddle" mark on the middle of its back. The caterpillar also has "horns" on both ends of its body. If your skin comes in contact with the caterpillar, fine hairs on its body may inject venom (poison) into your skin. The sting can be very painful and the pain will last until the hairs are removed.

**IN A POISONING
EMERGENCY, CALL
24 HOURS A DAY,
7 DAYS A WEEK:**

1-800-222-1222

*TTY and interpreter
services available*

First Aid

- Remove the fine hairs by gently touching the sting site with a piece of scotch tape.
- Wash the sting site with soapy water.
- Call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 for more treatment advice.

If you are stung and feel a burning pain, have swelling, nausea, headache, or weakness, go to the nearest hospital or doctor right away for treatment.

You may be having an allergic reaction.



Safety Tips

To avoid being stung, wear long pants, gloves, and shoes if you are walking in grassy areas or doing yard work.

Spiders

Only two spiders are dangerous to man: the black widow and the brown recluse. The bites of these spiders rarely cause death. These spider bites can be especially dangerous for children, the elderly, and those in poor health.

The female black widow is a black, shiny spider with a red or orange “hour glass” shape on her stomach. The smaller, brown male spider is not poisonous. The black widow spins her web in dark, quiet places—under rocks, debris, and woodpiles. Black widows also like attics, cellars, and damp storage areas. The bite of the black widow may be painful. Within one hour after being bit, you may experience stomach pain, dizziness, stiffness, and have trouble breathing.

The brown recluse is a yellowish-tan to dark brown spider. It is about the size of a quarter. The brown recluse has a dark “violin-shaped” marking on its head. This spider also spins its web in dark, quiet places. The bite of a brown recluse may be very painful. Within 36 hours after being bit, you may experience restlessness, fever, chills, nausea, weakness, and joint pain. A “bulls-eye” like blister or wound may develop at the bite site. If the wound is not treated by a doctor, it may get larger.



Safety Tips

Before dressing, shake out clothing, shoes, and hats that have not been worn for awhile. Wear shoes and gloves when getting fire wood, lumber, and other items that have been stored for a long time. Get rid of clutter in basements, closets, attics, and garages. Dust and vacuum around windows, corners of rooms, under furniture, and in storage areas often.

First Aid

- Wash the bite site with soapy water.
- Call the Poison Center right away for more treatment advice.

The Minnesota Poison Control System

Each year, the Minnesota Poison Control System provides services to tens of thousands of people. You can call the Poison Center to get immediate and confidential help in a poisoning emergency. Poison information providers, pharmacists, and doctors answer the phones 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. They can tell you what to do if you or someone else was poisoned. In addition, the Poison Center’s staff can answer any questions about medicines or other poisons in and around your home. **All calls to the Poison Center are free.**



To order educational materials, please visit our website at www.mnpoison.org

Minnesota Poison Control System

701 Park Ave Mail Code: RL
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*Certified as a Regional Poison Center
by the American Association of
Poison Control Centers.*