



Home, Health & Safety

NEWS YOU CAN USE

It's Snake Season!



Western Diamond Back Rattlesnake



Southern Copperhead



Texas Coral Snake



Western Cottonmouth

Fun Fact:

In the United States, only rattlesnakes, copperheads, cottonmouths, and coral snakes are poisonous. More Americans die each year from bee and wasp stings than from snake bites.

Have You Noticed...

Snake skins in your attic or around your home, work shed or garage?

If you encounter a live snake **DO NOT** attempt to trap or capture it! Make sure you note the location of the snake so we can have greater success in finding the animal and remove it as quickly as possible.

Turn over for an Interesting and Informative Article on Snakes....

It's That Time of the Year...

We're starting to spend more time with friends and family outside the home. These family activities, outdoor events and sporting activities increase the chances of stumbling upon a snake.

Most snakes eat small rodents (mice, rats, squirrels), other snakes, lizards and amphibians (toads, frogs and salamanders), all of which tend to show up around our houses, garages, commercial buildings, golf courses, etc. The snakes simply go where they can find a good meal. We can't really fault the snakes for following the food, but we can rescue the homeowner and snake. Our staff will capture the snake, if it is venomous, we will turn it over to the proper authority. Its' venom may be used in the development of various medicines and treatments. If it's not venomous, we will turn it over to the proper authority for relocation and proper disposition.



Retro Fit Weep Hole Stuffer

Snakes and rodents enter your home by way of openings in the exterior (weep holes and around dryer vents, etc). Installing the correct dryer vent and correct weep hole material will prevent snake and rodent entry, while allowing your wall to breathe and dryer vent to function properly.

We install the Tamlyn Retrofit weep hole stuffer and Hartland dryer vents for that reason. Once installed, access to your living space is restricted to family and friends with no unwanted surprise guests.



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Below are excerpts from an article about venomous snakes found in Texas by snake expert and owner of Texas Snakes & More, Clint Pustejovsky, that we felt our clients might find informative. The full article can be read online at http://www.texasdeerassociation.com/article_info.php?articles_id=35



Beware of Snakes By Clint Pustejovsky

Venom—just the word makes you shiver and think “danger.” Venomous snakes are found in every county in Texas, but they are not the threat that most people believe they are. Out of the 15 species of venomous snakes found in Texas, none will strike or bite unless disturbed (whether accidentally or not), provoked or intentionally handled.

Venomous snakes have venom to immobilize their prey and begin the digestive process before swallowing their food. Once the animal or prey is injected with venom (we’ll use a mouse for illustrative purposes), it will begin to lose control of its ability to move. This can happen rapidly, depending on the type of venom, volume of venom injected, depth of fangs and if any venom entered a major artery. One mouse may only take a few steps and fall over, just kicking its legs and never moving again. Another one may hop and run around, making the snake follow its trail.

The snake uses its exceptionally sensitive tongue to track wounded and dying prey. The tongue will go out and move up and down collecting molecules and then the two tips of the forked tongue will go into the Jacobson organ in the roof of its mouth, which allows the snake to analyze the tiniest of molecules left behind by the prey. The snake can then enjoy its meal.

CAUTION: If you see a squirrel or any other rodent losing control and having difficulty moving, there is probably a pit viper close by following its trail. Timber/Canebrake Rattlesnakes will bite a rat or squirrel once or twice and then follow it, and your eyes noticing the rodent and looking for the snake are your defense for preventing an envenomation.

The two major types of venom found in Texas snakes are hemotoxin and neurotoxin. The venoms of the pit viper, for example, Rattlesnake, Cottonmouth and Copperhead, are known as hemotoxins, which attacks skin and muscle tissue, which can cause extensive tissue damage due to necrosis.

The venom of the Texas Coral Snake is known as a neurotoxin, which attacks the central nervous system and usually attacks the respiratory system first. The Coral Snake is an elapid and has similar venom to the cobras of Africa and

Remember, if you leave a snake alone, it will leave you alone! A venomous snake can still strike and bite after being decapitated because its brain stays alive for up to two hours. Handling, killing or attempting to kill a venomous snake is dangerous and never a good idea.

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*Clint recently appeared on Fox26 to talk about snakes and steps you can take to remain safe this snake season. You can view the interview at the URL Below:
http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/weird/090408_wild_wednesday_snakes*