



Safety Tips

A five minute training Series for PCOs.



Insect Stings



During the last 7 years, over 200 technicians have been bitten or stung by insects. These are reported bites and stings. Many more have occurred and have not been reported.

Since we are in the business of treating for insects, this is an accident cause that can be avoided with more proper handling. Our customers call us when they have an insect infestation or swarming is occurring. When our customers call us for assistance with these problems, proper care needs to be exercised to investigate the problem.

Often, technicians go to the location of the complaint to determine if the problem exists. Unfortunately, they often do not wear the proper personal protective equipment to do so. We have experienced several such claims where the technician went up on a roof to investigate swarming insects and was chased off of the roof by the insects. A couple of them actually ran off of the roof and were injured not by the insects, but by the fall.

Our best defense against biting and stinging insects is our personal protective equipment. Often, this is why our customers call us to handle their problems. They can spray for the insects, but they do not have the proper personal protective equipment to protect themselves and we do.

Should you get stung, treat the sting immediately. First, examine the wound carefully. Many stinging insects leave the stinger and poison sack in the wound. If this is the case, carefully remove them without squeezing or breaking the sack. This will prevent the poison from entering your system. However, many stinging insects, such as wasps, do not leave their stinger behind and the damage is done.

Carry a sting kit to treat the infected area immediately. The longer the venom is allowed to circulate in your system the more painful and harmful it becomes. Make every effort to identify what the insect is that stung you. If it is a spider bite or other insect bite, identification is most important for proper treatment.

WEAR YOUR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT