

Most stinging insects are relatively safe to be near, even in large numbers, so long as they are not aggravated.

Prevention

- be observant when using noisy equipment. Check for hives/nests or dangerous insect activity before use. Do not use equipment less than 10 metres of a hive or 100 metres of a wild bee colony.
- Don't swat bees or wasps, you'll probably just enrage them. Only wack a wasp if you are sure to kill it. If you strike or kill a bee you'll set off its defence pheromone which will bring unhappy relatives seeking vengeance.
- Cover sweet food and drinks outdoors, and take care that a bees hasn't gone swimming in your coke.
- Do not wear perfumes or sweet smelly deodorants.
- Check for stinging insects that will seek water from any wet material including shirts and towels. Bees will seek sweat from your skin; they will not sting unless squashed. Bees can be easily removed from the body by flicking it off with your finger.
- Do not use chemicals during the day when bees are active or close to the hive within 10 metres. Bees become confused with chemical odours are in the air and will sting.
- *If the bees become irritated*, they often warn off intruders by bumping heads with them, not stinging. If that happens to you, don't swat them, just turn around and leave.

IF BEES ATTACK

Keep calm, cover your head if possible (e.g. with your shirt) and run steadily to safety as most people can outrun bees if they don't panic. Bees don't travel very fast, 3km top speed.

- Run in a straight line (a bee line!), don't try to zigzag! – as far as possible.
- Get into anything that is sealed in such a way as not to allow insect entry, such as a vehicle or room
- Bees can be brushed off the body by brushing against trees and bushes however they may still seek you out.
- Bees attacking a person can be discourage by using certain substances that drive bees away like discharging a fire extinguisher, blast of high pressure water stream, constant blow of strong wind like that of a dozer exhaust fan.



DO NOT

Do not scream or swat bees, as this will only irritate them more and increase the severity of the attack.

- run towards other people who will also get attacked.
- hide under water (your pool) as they will still be swarming above - and go for you - when you surface for air, running water like showers offer better protection.
- rip your clothes off, even if some bees got inside. If the shirt comes off the rest of the bees will have more targets.

Read more:

http://www.bugbog.com/travel_safety/dangerous_animals/bee_stings.html#ixzz2fHvQerNo