

## General Information

There are 4,000 kinds of wasps in the United States. Typically, Wasps are most active during the day and usually return to their nests at dusk. Most wasps live less than one year and some only live for a few months. Queens sometimes live for several years.

Common home remedies for stings include coating the sting site with a meat tenderizer/water solution rinse, baking soda paste or even rubbing the site with an aluminum based deodorant!

<b>Size</b>	3/8" – 5/8"	<b>Common Name</b>	Yellow Jacket
<b>Shape</b>	Wasp shaped	<b>Kingdom</b>	Animalia
<b>Color</b>	Black with yellow stripes	<b>Phylum</b>	Arthropoda
<b>Legs</b>	6	<b>Class</b>	Insecta
<b>Wings</b>	Yes	<b>Order</b>	Hymenoptera
<b>Antenna</b>	Yes	<b>Family</b>	Vespidae
		<b>Genus Species</b>	Vespula vulgaris

## Diet

Yellow Jackets eat spiders and insects. They will also feed on human food, especially meats and sweets. Unlike bees, Wasps do not make honey or store food.

## Habitat

Yellow Jackets like to be where humans live. They usually build their nests underground, around garbage and in cool, dark spaces. They also build nests in trees, shrubs and in holes in walls. Most Yellow Jacket colonies only remain active for one year. Then the queen flies off to start a new colony. The remaining bees die in the fall and the nest is abandoned. Look for Yellow Jacket nests during the day, because you can see them flying in and out, but destroy nests at night, when they are dormant and all there.

## Impact

Wasps *help* farmers by eating pests that can destroy crops. They are *dangerous* because they can sting multiple times, injecting venom into the host. For most people a Yellow Jacket sting just causes a welt and temporary pain, but their sting can cause **allergic reactions** to people sensitive to this venom.

## Prevention

- Do not leave sweet drinks or meats out in the open.
- Call a pest management professional if you find Yellow Jackets around your house.

To learn more about this and other wasps, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/wasps.html>