

FAST FACTS

- Certain species of bees *die* after stinging. That is because their stingers are attached to their abdomen, and have little barbs or hooks on them. When the bee tries to fly away after stinging something, part of the abdomen is ripped away and it dies.
- Bees make honey to feed their young and so they have something to eat during the winter.
- Beekeepers use smoke to calm bees when they are collecting honey or relocating a hive.

General Information

Carpenter bees are solitary bees. They build nests just for themselves and only feed their own young. There are seven species of carpenter bees throughout the U.S. They get their name from their ability to drill through wood and nest in holes of about one-half inch across.

Carpenter bees look like typical bumblebees but often lack yellow stripes. The male carpenter bee's main job is to guard the outside of the nest. Also, Carpenter bee stingers are not **barbed**, so they are able to sting over and over again.

Size: 1"	Common Name: Carpenter Bee
Shape: Oval	Kingdom: Animalia
Color: Blue black	Phylum: Arthropoda
Legs: 6	Class: Insecta
Wings: Yes	Order: Hymenoptera
Antenna: Yes	Family: Apidae
	Genus Species: Xylocopa

Diet

Worker bees gather both pollen and nectar from flowers to feed to the larvae and other members of the colony.

Habitat

Carpenter bees bore through soft woods to lay eggs and protect their larvae as they develop. Female carpenter bees will chew a tunnel into a piece of wood to build a nest gallery. The bits of wood she chews and deposits outside the nest are called "frass". The tunnel openings usually look about one or two inches deep, but they can be up to 10 feet long! These tunnels usually have several rooms where the bees hold their eggs and food.

Impact

Carpenter bees do not pose a public health threat, but they can do cosmetic damage to the wood where they build their nests. Carpenter bees are beneficial because they **pollinate** plants that are ignored by Honeybees.

Prevention

* Carpenter bees can drill into almost any wood, but prefer bare wood, so painting and staining wood can sometimes deter them.



CARPENTER BEE INFO SHEET

* Their nests can be hard to reach, so a pest management professional or beekeeper should be called in to help.

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