

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
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RELEASE DATE: April 28, 2016

Subject: Dealing with Carpenter Bees

Prevention

Female carpenter bees like weathered, slightly roughened surfaces of soft woods to create their galleries. Usually, they choose west or south exposures. If practical, these areas can be treated with an insecticide that contains either cypermethrin or deltamethrin as active ingredients. They are irritating to many insect species, forcing them to leave treated surfaces. Usually, the bees are not killed but leave to find less irritating surfaces. An application may last 3 to 4 weeks so it may be necessary to re-treat. The area will continue to be attractive to other carpenter bees that are looking for nesting sites so a treatment does not mean that all bees will suddenly disappear.

Read and follow label directions and read and any precautions that must be taken when using these products.

Examples include

Active ingredient	Brand name
Cypermethrin (3)	Cyper-Eight
Deltamethrin	Bonide Household Insect Control Ready To Use (0.02%) Bonide Termite & Carpenter Ant RTU (0.02%)

Other pyrethroids that may be effective

Cyfluthrin	Bayer Home Pest Control Indoor & Outdoor RTU
Cyhalothrin	Spectracide Bug Stop Indoor Plus Outdoor
Permethrin	various brands

Carpenter bees prefer bare wood but will chew into stained wood. A glossy topcoat over a stain may reduce damage because bees do not like slick, hard surfaces. Painted surfaces are rarely attacked.

Treating active tunnels

Treat and plug active carpenter bee holes with a contact insecticide or WD-40 oil. After treatment, seal the entryway with a piece of dowel rod, wood putty, or Energy Seal.

Carpenter bee traps

Carpenter bee traps can be made or purchased. They attract and capture bees looking for nesting sites. They are probably most effective early in the season when the bees are establishing their sites and where bee numbers are relatively low. In some situations, they may be an effective alternative. Below are two sites with instructions and a video.

http://www.loghomecare.com/carpenter_bees.html .

<http://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Carpenter-Bee-Trap>

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Making-Carpenter-Bee-Traps/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g2TRanAkSA>

http://www.loghomecare.com/carpenter_bees.html .

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