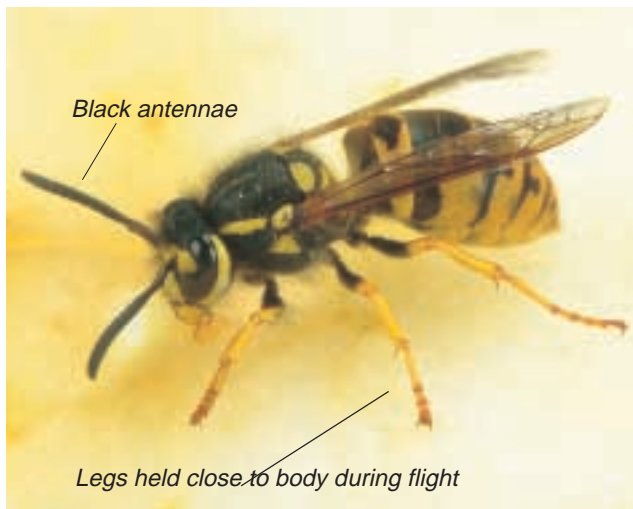




WASP IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

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EUROPEAN WASP



NEST

PAPER WASP



NEST

Suspect European wasps should be reported to the Department of Agriculture by phoning **9368 3666**
or

European Wasp Hotline Phone: 9368 3660 or 9453 2119

Please leave your name and contact details so that your call can be returned within 24 hours or during
normal office hours Monday-Friday 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

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EUROPEAN WASP



PAPER WASP

Size	Workers: About 15 mm long (size of a bee) Queens: larger (not usually seen)	Longer than a bee: 15–19 mm long.
Body shape	Stout: Like a bee.	Longer and thinner than a bee. Narrow waist.
Colour	Bright yellow and black, no other colours.	Yellow paper wasp: Bright yellow and black. Common paper wasp: Brown with yellow and black stripes.
Antennae (feelers)	All black (see picture above).	Orange or brown tips (see picture above).
Flying	Legs held close to body during flight. Fly very quickly, generally do not hover.	Back legs dangle down during flight. Often seen hovering around bushes and over lawns.
		
Nests	Rarely seen. Usually below ground.	Often seen. Usually above ground.
Shape	Round or football shaped with an outer covering of insulating carton. Above nest with outer carton peeled back for display.	Single flat layer of papery honeycomb cells. Grey-brown in colour, often with some white-capped cells.
Size	Large: Growing in summer to be the size of a basketball or bigger	Golf ball to crummet sized: Rarely can be as large as a dinner plate
Location	Normally in the ground but may be found in a roof or wall cavity. Will have a busy entrance hole with many wasps entering and exiting per minute.	Located under fence capping or roof tiles, also under eaves and in dense shrubs. Sometimes in hollow steel and piping.
Treatment	Treated and removed free of charge by the Department of Agriculture Wasps will sting repeatedly. It is hazardous to approach the nest; do not attempt to treat the nest yourself. Wasp attacks can occur en-masse.	By the householder or pest control operator but nests need to be located. This can be done by following drinking wasps back from water. Wasps will sting and can sting repeatedly if you approach the nest during the day. Spray nests after sundown with fly spray. Remove and destroy nests the next day once all wasps are dead. Nests left untreated will produce more queens to start nests the following spring. All paper wasps are introduced into south Western Australia; they are not native.
Food	Wasps visiting pet foods, rubbish, meat or fish are likely to be European wasps.	Caterpillars: rarely come to meats.