

## Ticks

Oklahoma ticks include the Lone Star, American dog and blacklegged tick.

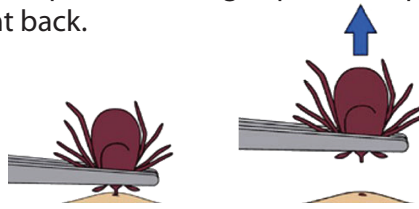
Ticks are capable of transmitting several diseases, including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, STARI (Southern tick-associated rash illness) and tularemia. If you become ill within one week of a recent tick bite or after visiting a tick-infested area, call a physician right away!

### Prevention Tips

- Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks can be seen more easily. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into socks. Wear closed-toe shoes, not sandals.
- Examine everyone frequently, including pets, for ticks. The longer the tick remains attached, the greater the risk of tick-borne illness.
- Use an insect repellent on skin and clothing. Follow the directions specified on the container and use the lowest strength for children. Reapply as directed on the label.

### Tick Bite First Aid

To remove the tick, use tweezers, if possible, and grasp (don't squeeze) the tick as closely to the skin as possible and pull straight back.



Seed ticks (small immature ticks) may be removed with the same shampoo that is used for treating lice. Consult your pharmacist. Removal of seed ticks also can be done using masking tape. Place the adhesive side of the tape over the tick and slowly peel off. This will frequently remove the tick.

- Do not use bare hands to remove the tick. Wash hands thoroughly after removing the tick.
- Be very careful not to crush the body of the tick, as that may cause it to inject its stomach contents into the wound.
- After removing the tick, examine the bite area for any remaining tick parts in the wound. A magnifying glass may be helpful. Contact a medical doctor for head removal if necessary.
- Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water.
- Mark the date of the bite on the calendar.

If flu-like symptoms such as fever, muscle pain, extreme fatigue, headache, chills, joint pain, swollen glands or a rash develop within three days to two months after the bite, see your physician. Lyme disease symptoms may not develop for up to two months. Symptoms of Rocky Mountain spotted fever usually develop within two weeks of bite.

## General First Aid for Bites and Stings

- Move to a safe area in order to avoid further bites or stings.
- Wash the bite/sting area well with soap and water.
- Apply a cool wet cloth to cover the bite, then apply an ice pack and alternate 15 minutes on and 15 minutes off.
- Elevate and rest the wounded area to decrease swelling.
- Call the Poison Center to speak with a specialist for any questions you might have about bites or stings.
- Watch for signs of allergic reaction: wheezing, difficulty breathing, rapid and severe swelling, dizziness, chest tightness, hoarseness or blue discoloration of the lips. If any of these symptoms occur, call 911 immediately.
- Watch for signs of infection: increasing pain, increasing redness and/or drainage.
- Don't scratch the area around the bite or sting, as this may lead to infection.
- Signs of an infected bite or sting include swelling, redness, pain, and a feeling of warmth in the area. If these symptoms occur, consult a physician.

Program the Poison Center  
number into your phone  
**(800) 222-1222**

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## Bites and Stings



Oklahoma Center for  
Poison & Drug Information

(800) 222-1222

More information on tick bites, prevention, and tickborne diseases can be found at [www.cdc.gov/ticks](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks).

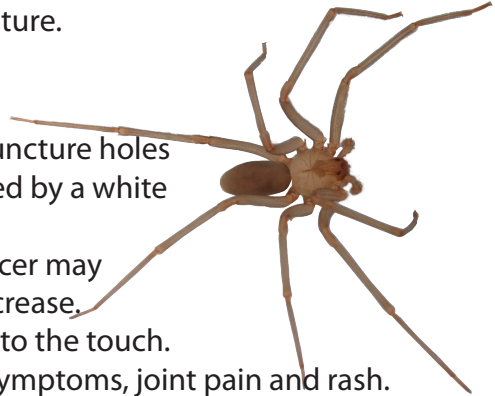
We have answers to your bite and sting questions

## Brown Recluse

The Brown Recluse has a brown violin-shaped marking on the top side of its middle section. It is a light brown spider with thin legs that are longer than its body. They can live for long periods of time without food or water. Habitats include cracks, crevices, and dark, undisturbed places such as attics, closets, bedding and furniture.

### Signs and Symptoms

- Mild to severe pain usually develops within two to eight hours. One or two tiny puncture holes may be seen at the site of the bite, surrounded by a white and red “halo.”
- Blisters usually appear within 24 hours. An ulcer may be seen within 48 hours. Pain and itching increase. The bite area also feels hot, swollen and firm to the touch. Within 24 to 48 hours, there may be flu-like symptoms, joint pain and rash.
- If you see dark urine within 72 hours after a bite, get medical attention right away. Serious symptoms may occur in children.
- The tissue dies and sloughs away and an open ulcer may form within one to two weeks. Although rare, serious reactions may cause death. No antidote is currently available.
- Treatment consists of good first aid care and observing for the above symptoms.



## Black Widow

A jet black shiny appearance and marble-shaped body help identify this spider. It has markings on the underside of the abdomen which are often in the shape of an hourglass and can be red, yellow or orange in color. This spider spins a messy web and generally does not attack unless its web is disturbed. Dry, dimly lit, secluded areas such as those around work and storage sheds, woodpiles, basements, storm shelters and garages are attractive locations to this spider.

### Signs and Symptoms

- The bite may cause a sharp, pinprick-like pain. This pain may subside and reappear as a dull, throbbing ache, followed by severe muscle pain and cramps.
- After 30 to 120 minutes, the person may experience abdominal pain, restlessness, sweating, increased blood pressure and headache.
- If abdominal pain or cramping occurs, seek medical attention.



## Bees, Wasps, Hornets

For a bee sting, remove the stinger from the wound as quickly as possible to prevent the injection of additional venom. Bees have barbed stingers, which are left embedded in the skin, usually with the venom sac still attached. After stinging, the bee will die.

- Remove the stinger by grasping it close to the skin, or scraping across the skin using the edge of a credit card, coin, or other dull object.
- Do NOT squeeze the venom sac, as that will result in more venom being injected into the skin.
- After the stinger has been removed, follow with general first aid care for the wound. Symptoms usually go away within a few hours.



Because their stingers have no barbs, wasps and hornets may sting repeatedly. These stings can easily become infected. Although stings normally cause only a painful wound, serious allergic reactions have occurred in some people.



Multiple stings, especially to the head or neck, are more serious and can be life-threatening.

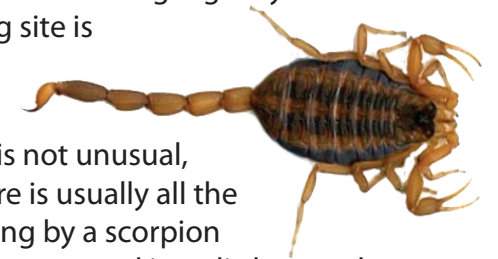


**If you have difficulty breathing or rapid and severe swelling, call 911 immediately. For any other symptoms outside the immediate area of the injury, such as flu-like symptoms or fever, call a doctor as soon as possible.**

## Scorpions

Scorpions in Oklahoma can cause a painful sting, but serious, life-threatening symptoms are rare. Swelling is generally limited. The sensation of numbness and tingling may occur but usually stops within 24 hours. A cold pack placed on the sting site is usually quite effective in reducing pain.

An additional symptom that can be seen following a scorpion sting is a metallic taste in the mouth. This is not unusual, and does not indicate a problem. General first aid care is usually all the treatment that is required. Frequently, the person stung by a scorpion has no pain and cannot locate the site where the sting occurred in as little as an hour.



For more information, visit our website at [OklahomaPoison.org](http://OklahomaPoison.org)