

Tools Needed for Hunt

- Ultraviolet (UV) flashlight or headlamp (aka black light)
- Long forceps/tweezers (8+ inches)
- Smooth surface container+ lid (so scorpions can't climb out)
- Closed toe shoes and leather gloves to protect from stings

(Those uncomfortable with hunting may hire someone)

Other control strategies

Pesticides are not considered the most effective strategy against scorpions, but if used, ensure pesticides are specific to scorpions and applied where scorpions are likely to live or walk, such as the outdoor perimeter of the home, and indoors along baseboards and in cracks and crevices. Pesticides may also be used to rid your home and yard of pests that scorpions eat, such as crickets, cockroaches, and ants.

Prevent hitchhikers!

When travelling to areas where bark scorpions are native (Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico), check your vehicle and outdoor items for scorpions. They can stow away in your vehicle on your return home to Indio!

Scorpion control is a community effort!

If everyone in the community does their part to remove ideal living spaces, food, and transport for scorpions, you have a good chance of eliminating them. For any questions about this best practices guide, please contact the District.

Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Best Practices Guide to Scorpion Removal and Prevention



BACKGROUND

The bark scorpion, *Centruroides sculpturatus*, was detected in the Shadow Hills community in Indio, CA in 2014. It is an invasive scorpion, not native to the Coachella Valley, and likely came from the native habitats of Arizona.

Surveys conducted in Shadow Hills neighborhoods in November 2017 showed levels of infestation from 1-2 to 15-20 scorpions in a yard. This guide offers best practices for scorpion removal and prevention and is most successful when everyone in the community does their part.

THE BARK SCORPION IS...the most venomous scorpion in the United States. A sting can cause severe pain lasting 24-72 hours with numbness, tingling, and vomiting.

Medical treatment is not typically necessary, however, young children and people with high blood pressure are more susceptible to venom and should seek medical attention if stung. The majority of stings may be managed by washing the area with soap and water, applying a cool compress, positioning the affected limb in a comfortable position, and using over-the-counter pain medication, as needed. If you are stung and have any concerns contact your medical provider.”

YOU ARE MOST LIKELY TO FIND THEM...in block walls, underneath wood and pots, and in between river rocks or on other landscaping rocks.

They are skilled climbers and may be found on walls of homes and up in the eaves. They squeeze into a crack as thick as a credit card (1/16th inch) and seek shelter in hidden spaces.

Unlike many other scorpion species, bark scorpions can live in groups of 20-30 and are not territorial. This may lead to increased chances of encountering these scorpions in areas where they are established.

Scorpion Control Best Practices

1. Seal up your home

- Seal doorway cracks with weather stripping.
- Fill in any cracks and crevices at the base of the building.
- Ensure window screens have no holes and fit tightly.
- Check pet doors for a good seal when not in use.
- Restrict rooftop, eaves, or attic access by sealing cracks and using screens over vents.

2. Change your landscape

- Ensure rock facades on walls are well sealed or remove them entirely. Scorpions use these walls as a “hallway” between homes.
- Remove items where scorpions can hide, such as trash, logs, boards, pots, or toys.
- Use small landscaping rocks (about 1/2 inch or less in size), making it difficult for scorpions to get between rocks.
- Fill in cracks on planters and walls. Cracks give scorpions a good place to hide.



Hunt for scorpions

Bark scorpions reproduce slowly, so physical removal is the best method to reduce the population. Regular hunts (monthly or more frequently) will impact their numbers. Hunting throughout the year is recommended.

About an hour after sunset, use a UV light to search for scorpions. Shine the light on possible places where scorpions may rest such as:

- along yard walls and in the cracks
- on or between rocks
- under pots, rocks, and wood
- behind any shrubs or plants
- along the walls and base of the house and up to the eaves
- front and backyards

When you see the green glow of the scorpion, grab it quickly with forceps! Scorpions are fast runners. Then place scorpion into a container with a smooth interior and tightfitting lid. Kill scorpions by placing the container into the freezer overnight.

