

## SWARM REMOVAL vs HIVE EXTRACTION

OMG! The sky is full of thousands of bees flying in every direction! Bring the children and the pets inside and do something...*but what???*

Maybe you've discovered a big blob of bees calmly hanging from a limb in your yard, or on a fence post, mailbox, etc. Or perhaps you've been seeing bees coming and going from a hole in your home or office's siding for weeks, months...or even years! You could call a pest control company, but they can only kill the bees and will charge you for it.

**BUT**...if you want to save the bees and the planet, you can call a local beekeeper who will rescue the bees and give them a new home in a safe place, often for free! To learn more, continue reading and contact one of our beekeepers from our **Beekeeper Contact List**, located on our website under "Swarm Help". Before calling, consider the following:

### 1. *What kind of insect are you dealing with?*

Take photos and be prepared to text them to the beekeeper you contact.



*Honey Bee*



*Carpenter Bee*



*Bumble Bee*



*Yellowjacket*

### 2. *What kind of service do you need- swarm removal, hive extraction, or extermination?*

If you see honey bees, we need to know if it is a **swarm** or a **hive**.

A **swarm** is a group of bees clustered outside, often hanging from a tree limb or in a bush. It will be the color, size and shape of a football, though the size and shape can vary. If you are lucky a swarm might leave within an hour ... or it can stay for days. Swarm removals are free, except when conditions are dangerous, such as swarms that are high in a tree or in a crowded location. Ask your beekeeper for an estimate before he begins work.

A **hive** is a group of bees that have moved into a protected area such as a stud wall, attic, chimney, irrigation box, etc., have built honeycomb, and are raising babies. During daylight you will see individual bees landing on the exterior of their home, then disappearing into a hole or crack. Hives like this are quite happy and will stay put, but may produce a swarm or two each year who will look for a new home, usually in another inconvenient location on your property. To prevent this, ask a beekeeper who does hive extraction to come out and do an inspection. They will determine the exact location of the hive and develop an approach and cost estimate. The inspection may or may not be free. Hive extractions require a highly experienced beekeeper that is skilled in construction techniques, has the required tools and is willing to work with 5,000 stinging insects. As such you can expect the estimated charges to be similar or higher than conventional carpentry rates. Your beekeeper will discuss the estimate with you before beginning work.



Nests of carpenter bees, bumble bees, yellowjackets, and wasps die off by early winter.

Bumblebees are usually not aggressive and can be left alone. If you have **aggressive yellowjackets or wasps**, contact a pest control service for extermination.

No matter your situation, don't hesitate...take action!

You'll find our **Beekeeper Contact List** on our website under "Swarm Help"