

HOW TO TREAT A SCORPION STING

1 Remain calm.

Scorpion venom induces anxiety in victims, so try especially hard to avoid panic. Most species of scorpion have venom of low to moderate toxicity and do not pose a serious health threat to adult humans, other than severe pain.

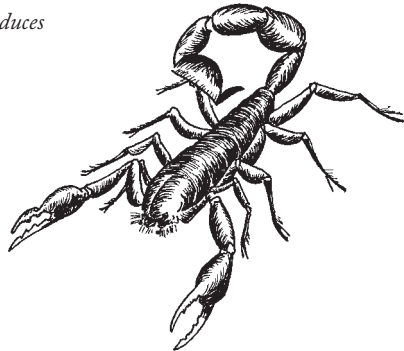
2 Apply heat or cold packs to the sting site for pain relief.

The most severe pain usually occurs at the site of the sting. Also use an analgesic (painkiller) if available.

3 If an allergic reaction occurs, take an antihistamine.

Scorpion venom contains histamines, which may cause allergic reactions (asthma, rashes) in sensitive persons.

Scorpion venom induces anxiety in victims.



4 Watch for an irregular heartbeat, tingling in extremities, an inability to move limbs or fingers, or trouble breathing.

Most scorpion stings cause only instantaneous pain at the site of the sting; stings feel similar to those of a wasp. The pain of a scorpion sting may radiate over the body several minutes after the initial sting. Pain tends to be felt in joints, especially in the armpits and groin. Systemic symptoms may also occur—possibly numbness in the face, mouth, or throat; muscle twitches; sweating; nausea; vomiting; fever; and restlessness. These symptoms are normal and not life-threatening, and usually subside in one to three hours. The site of the sting may remain sore and/or sensitive to touch, heat, or cold for one to three days.

5 Seek emergency medical care if you exhibit the above symptoms.

Small children who are stung should seek emergency medical care immediately. Adults, however, have much more time—the odds of dying or even becoming seriously ill as a result of a scorpion sting are extremely slim. You will have at least 12 hours to get to a hospital—probably more.

6 Do not apply tourniquets, as the toxins are small and move extremely rapidly away from the site of the sting.

A tourniquet will not help the wound, and could cause more harm if applied incorrectly.

7 Do not attempt to cut the wound and suck out the poison.

This can cause infection or transfer the venom into the bloodstream of the person attempting to remove the poison.

Be Aware

- Scorpions are active at night, when they hunt and search for mates. During the day, scorpions hide in burrows or in any available crack or crevice, depending upon the species. Scorpions are notorious for seeking shelter in objects such as shoes, clothing, bedding, and bath towels. Your presence may surprise the scorpion and it could sting if disturbed. If you are in an area that has scorpions, shake out these items before using them, and check bedding before sleeping.
- Many species of scorpions will readily enter homes and other buildings, which increases the likelihood of an encounter. Scorpions will sting if surprised or threatened, but generally will not sting if unprovoked.
- Scorpions cannot usually deliver enough venom to kill a healthy adult. While venom toxicity varies among species, some scorpions contain very powerful neurotoxins, which, ounce for ounce, are more toxic to humans than the venom of cobras. However, scorpions inject relatively small amounts of venom (compared to snakes), so the overall dose of toxins per sting is survivable.

**WORST-CASE
SCENARIO.**