

TICKS & HAZARDOUS INSECTS

When the CDC has an entire page dedicated to these little guys, then avoidance is probably the best policy. If employees are working outdoors or in any area where ticks could be present.

Ticks Common in the San Antonio area



Brown Dog Ticks

Brown dog ticks are the most common ticks in the San Antonio area. They are a deep reddish brown in color and have no distinguishing markings. Like their name suggests, they are bothersome to dogs but rarely bite humans. Brown dog ticks are not known to transmit Lyme disease, but can pass on Rocky Mountain spotted fever.



American Dog Ticks

American dog ticks are colorful ticks. They have brown bodies with whitish and grey markings. These ticks are plentiful in San Antonio, and can transmit diseases to humans. Some of these diseases include Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia. They are only found in North America, and prefer to attach to dogs, which is how they got their name.



Lone Star Ticks

Lone Star ticks are aggressive and will feed on wildlife, dogs, and humans. They can transmit Southern Tick-Associated Rash Infection. They also carry ehrlichiosis, as well as Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Lone star ticks are brown in color and have white markings. Their most noticeable feature is a spot like a star on the center of adult females. Lone Star tick bites can cause people to develop a meat allergy.



Black Legged Deer Ticks

Blacklegged ticks are vectors of several serious tick-borne diseases including Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus. It is extremely important to check for and remove ticks from humans and pets as quickly as possible. Adult females are typically less than 1/8 inch in length and males are slightly smaller. Adult females are brown to reddish-orange in color with a dark brown to black dorsal shield or scutum on the back, directly behind their head.

Often overlooked, injuries and deaths due to bees, spiders, and other insects are a concern that companies should manage as seriously as any other hazard in the workplace. Fatal on-the-job injuries do occur as a result of bites and stings from insects and spiders.

If employees are working outdoors or in any area where ants, insects, bees, wasps, ticks or spiders could be present, it would be a good idea to have an annual safety meeting on insects, bees & spiders. Topics should include how to recognize and avoid potential areas where insects may be lurking, what clothing is best to wear in the working environment, reminders to keep work areas clean and basic first aid tips if any employee is bitten or stung.

Take the time to go over these important points with the team.

- Inspect your work area before starting for signs of insects, including ticks..
- Wear light-colored, smooth-finished clothing to cover as much of the body as possible.
- Make it a habit to keep work areas clean.
- Workers outdoors may be exposed to diseases spread from the bites of infected ticks.
- Ticks may carry bacteria, parasites or viruses, including Lyme disease.
- Ticks may be found in wooded areas, high grass, or thick brush.
- Ticks are seen during the spring, summer and fall, but in warmer areas they can be active year-round.
- Check skin and clothing for ticks daily. • If bitten by a tick, it should be removed as soon as possible.
- To remove a tick, follow these steps: 1) using tweezers grasp the tick firmly, as close to your skin as possible, 2) pull the tick's body away from your skin with a steady motion, and 3) clean the area with soap and water.
- If any insect bite causes severe chest pain, nausea, severe sweating, loss of breath, serious swelling, or