



It's Really Going Places.

Best Management Practices

Bark Scorpions

Background: There are several species of scorpions in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Southern California. The bark scorpion (*Centruroides exilicauda*) is one of the only species with a potentially lethal sting. Like most predators, scorpions tend to forage in distinct and separate territories and return to the same area night after night. They may enter homes when their territory has been disrupted by construction, tree removal, or other disturbances.

Description: Bark scorpions are smaller than most scorpions (1-2 inches long). The pincers are long and thin, and its abdominal segments are longer and more slender than other scorpions. The color may vary from light tan to a darker golden brown. It is also the only scorpion that curls its tail to the side while at rest.

Bark scorpions like to climb on and hide under the bark of trees. They are common in riparian areas (mesquite, cottonwood, and sycamore groves). Bark scorpions are nighttime feeders found most commonly near irrigated areas, pools, in palm trees, and wooden fences and on the walls in homes.

Bark scorpions can climb walls and walk across ceilings. It can show up in bathtubs, sinks, and beds having fallen from the ceiling. Bark scorpions are active when nighttime temperatures are above 77° F. They are less active during the hottest part of the summer and are inactive during the winter where it is cold.

Management: If bark scorpions are found in a house or commercial facility, it is important to focus on 2 key areas: (1) entry points into the structure (or property), and (2) scorpion harborage areas.

Entry Points:

- A thorough inspection is required to locate and then seal all openings, cracks and crevices to prevent future entry by scorpions. Caulking material can be used to seal small cracks. Larger openings may need to be filled with steel or copper wool, or expanding foam products.

Harborage Areas:

- Scorpions move into yards to feed on insects attracted to lights and moisture associated with human habitation. Scorpions hide during the day and can be found around and under rocks, bark, wood piles, and other debris. Extensive use of landscape rock can create excellent scorpion harborages and are important areas to inspect. It is important to remove or treat these harborages in order to reduce the scorpion population.

Inside the structure:

- Due to their ability to climb, bark scorpions can be found in ceilings, attics and in rooms on the 2nd or 3rd floor.
- Dusting or fogging of attic: Use dusts or foggers labeled for scorpions in attics or drop ceilings. Dusts have a longer residual. Evidence of an infestation includes scorpion carcasses in light covers. In most drop ceilings, dusts will not be appropriate as the dust often falls or filters through spaces around tiles and lights.
 - Use dust or fogger in crawl spaces or voids under structures.
 - Use dust or crack and crevice aerosols in wall voids. Access walls via electrical outlets (always use caution to avoid shock) or any other penetration into voids.
 - Set out glue traps along walls as monitoring and control devices.
 - Spot treating corners and areas where scorpions can hide will help reduce their populations. Use TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide in a 0.06% suspension. Apply with a compressed air sprayer using a coarse, low-pressure spray not to exceed 25 PSI. Repeat applications should be limited to no more than once per seven days.

Outside the structure:

Once the inside is thoroughly treated with the above recommendations, protect the structure from reinfestation with an exterior barrier.

- *Perimeter treatment:* Treat a 6-10 ft band out from the exterior perimeter of structure. Using TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide in sufficient water (up to 10 gallons per 1000 square feet) to ensure 1 fluid ounce of concentrate is applied per 1000 square feet. Focus on entry points: around windows and doors, along foundations, along eaves (remember this scorpion is a very strong climber) or other potential points of entry. Also treat soil adjacent to structure in a 6-10 ft band around the house. When infestations are heavy or scorpions within structures have been difficult to control, treat the entire yard with TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide at the 0.06% rate (1 oz/gallon).
- Identify areas near the structure where scorpions may congregate: Under piles of wood or debris, under stones and landscape timbers. Eliminate as many of these potential harborages as possible. Store firewood off of the ground.
- Incorporate exclusion techniques: caulking entry points, weather stripping around doors and windows, and using copper wool to plug weep holes.
- Treat the exterior perimeter with a 4-6 ft broadcast band of Talstar® PL Granular Insecticide or Talstar® EZ Granular Insecticide at a rate of 2.3 - 4.6 pounds per 1000 square feet. Place granules in flowerbeds and areas conducive to moisture and organic matter. This will reduce populations of insects and arachnids and therefore reduce the scorpions' food source. If scorpion pressure is high, treat the whole yard at a broadcast rate of 2.3 - 4.6 pounds per 1000 square feet.

Always read and follow label directions.