

## Mud Dauber Wasps

**Size:** Adults are 3/4 – 1" long.

**Description:**

- Colour varies from yellow - black to metallic.
- Very long thin stem attachment to back abdomen.
- Wings are clear or black in colour.
- Long thin Legs
- Stinger is present.



**Biology and Habits:** Mud Dauber Wasps are not social and do not live in colonies. They do not defend their mud nests if they are disturbed and rarely sting.

Their seasonal cycle begins with the previous seasons full grown larvae overwintering. In the spring Larvae-pupae emerge as adults and begin their own mud nests. Each individual mud tube is enclosed with a wasp egg and several spiders. The larvae feed on the spider food source and in approx. 3 weeks, spin a silken cocoon and pupate into adults the following spring to begin the cycle all over again.

The average mud tube cluster in one location are 3-4" in diameter. Then the Mud Dauber Wasps move to a new location and begins another nest cluster, sometimes within inches of their first cluster or sometimes in a completely different location on the building.

All sites are protected from the weather and are located in ideally warm areas such as attics, sheltered eaves and overhangs of garages etc.



**Control:** Again, this is a beneficial insect, consuming many spiders and insects. If their nest locations are not a threat to you and your family we suggest you let them go through their annual cycles unharmed. Then in the fall use a broom or pole and knockdown the mud nests.

If nest elimination is necessary we use a variety of different treatment methods. Depending on the nest location and surrounding conditions, we sometimes dust, liquid spray applications or aerosol treatments to ensure safety, rapid knockdown and elimination.

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