What to do if you see a snake

• Stay calm.
• Keep children and pets away from the area.
• Maintain a safe distance from the snake.
• Watch the snake.
• If you can confidently identify the snake as harmless, leave it be.
• If you are unsure of the identification of the snake, take a photograph. **Call: 1800 453 210**

How to keep snakes away

• Keep your yard clutter free. Clutter provides warm, dark areas where snakes like to hide.
• Avoid tall growing grass and dense shrubs; unkempt grass and dense vegetation provides hiding places for snakes.
• Undertake regular pest control, as pests, such as rats, provide a food source for snakes.
• Remove ground level water sources that snakes may be drawn to drink or swim in. Water also provides a habitat for frogs, an important food source for some species of snakes.
• Patch up any holes; by blocking all access points into your home, snakes will be unable to enter. Carefully inspect your property and if you notice any holes, no matter how small, patch them up.
• Use snake and rodent mesh. Household pets like chickens, birds, rabbits and guinea-pigs are all food items for snakes. Keep your pets safe by lining their cages with snake and rodent mesh.

Common Snakes and Lizards of Central Australia

Lizards

Various species of lizard are found in the Centre. The most common type of lizard, which may be unwelcome around your home, is the Monitor Lizard, also known as a Goanna. Monitor Lizards have sharp claws and teeth and some are very large and powerful. Larger animals can also use their tails to deliver a heft blow. Whilst these lizards are not venomous, they can inflict nasty wounds and prey on small pets. If you encounter a lizard and it is not presenting a problem to you, simply let it go on its way. In cases of larger, perhaps threatening lizards, do not try and catch, corner or kill the animal. **Contact 1800 453 210 for further advice.**

For snake enquiries or removals please contact:
1800 453 210
Mulga Snake (*Pseudechis australis*), large, defined scales, heavy bodied, colour can vary greatly; typically creamy yellow to black in colour.

Yellow-faced Whip Snake (*Demansia psammophis*), quick moving, whip like tail, dark tear shape under eye.

Woma Python (*Aspidites ramsayi*), brown-reddish-tan and cream bands, heavy bodied. Most active at night, eats birds, mammals, reptiles, ground dwelling.

Curl Snake (*Suta sutu*), ochre/orange colouration, darker head and neck, solid build.

Centralian Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota bredli*), defined head and jaw, orange to brown colouration with cream and black patterning.

Stimsons Python (*Antareso stimsoni*), darker splcotes (mottled colour), defined head and jaw, lighter underbelly, cream to dark brown in colour.

Snake bite first aid

- Stay calm.
- Minimise mobility.
- Call 000
- Apply pressure to the wound. A pressure bandage should be applied firmly to the entire limb or wound area, but not so tight that it stops blood flow.
- Splint limb.

Snake facts

- Snake venom is designed to kill prey, not people. Snakes are scared of people and only bite out of fear. Most bites occur when people try to corner, capture or kill snakes. **Pick up the phone, not the snake.**
- Snakes play an essential role in the environment. They help keep rat and mice populations at bay. Having them around your property may deter pests from your home.
- In the Northern Territory, permits are required to keep snakes. They must not be acquired from the wild.

Key to snake identification

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<tr>
<th>Non-venomous</th>
<th>Eats</th>
<th>Climbing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mildly venomous</td>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>Most active in the day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highly venomous</td>
<td>Reptiles</td>
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