**RATTLESNAKES**

Leave them alone and they’ll leave you alone.

Length: 6 inches to 4 1/2 feet
Color: brownish to dark green, pale to deep yellow

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**Hiding Spots for Snakes:**
- In rodent burrows
- Under rocks or logs
- In tall grass
- Under house foundations

Be careful when hiking and avoid dense vegetation and piles of rocks. If you spot a snake, keep clear of it.

**Snake Bite Prevention**
- Don’t hike with open-toed shoes
- Avoid tall grass and clear your yard of dense vegetation or piles of rocks or logs
- Look for snakes in crevices before walking or sitting
- Put up snake-proof fences
- Seal gaps under doors and crawlspaces under your home
- Keep rodent populations low and fill in holes around your yard

**Do not tease or handle a snake.**

If a snake needs to be removed from your property, call Vector Control or professional pest/wildlife control who specializes in snakes.

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**Bites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO:</th>
<th>DON'T:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Calm the victim</td>
<td>- Don’t apply a tourniquet</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Keep the bitten body part still, remove rings and other constricting items, and keep the bite below heart level</td>
<td>- Don’t pack the bite area in ice or apply a cold compress</td>
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<td>3. Clean the wound and apply a clean, dry bandage</td>
<td>- Don’t cut the bite site</td>
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<td>4. Get victim to nearest emergency facility for treatment</td>
<td>- Don’t suck the venom out with your mouth</td>
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<td>- Don’t let the victim drink alcohol, eat food, or take drugs</td>
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**More Rattlesnake Facts:**
- Snakes don’t always rattle before striking
- Young snakes may not have a rattle but will strike and are venomous
- Snakes will bite by reflex after death

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The top right picture of a gopher snake shows the rounded eye and head in comparison with the elliptical eye and triangular head of the rattlesnake below. Both will bite but only rattlesnakes have two hollow teeth (fangs) that inject venom.

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Photos courtesy of Jitse Couperus