

DO:

1. Stay calm. Call 911.
2. Keep the bite below the level of the heart to slow the flow of venom.
3. Remove tight jewelry and clothing. Restrict movement in the bite area.
4. Know that if swelling and color change appear, the snake was probably poisonous.
5. Monitor vital signs. If shock occurs, lay the victim flat, raise their feet about a foot and cover them with a blanket.

DON'T:

1. Don't try to catch the snake. Identification is helpful, not critical.
2. Don't apply a tourniquet.
3. Don't use a cold compress on the bite.
4. Don't cut into the bite with a knife or razor.
5. Don't suck out the venom with your mouth.
6. Don't give medication without physician instructions.
7. Don't drink or eat anything.



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Poison Control Hotline:
1-800-222-1222

Safety Guide to Central Florida's Poisonous Snakes



10 Tips to Avoid Snake Bites

1. Learn to identify poisonous snakes.
2. Don't go barefoot outdoors, especially at night. If walking through heavy foliage, tap ahead with a stick.
3. Wear gloves while doing yard work.
4. Never pick up or play with snakes.
5. Don't reach into holes or pick up logs or trash without turning them over first.
6. Try to keep still if a snake crawls on you or if you spot one near by.
7. Tap on logs or stumps with a long stick before sitting on them.
8. Be cautious if boating under low-lying branches.
9. Keep the perimeter around your house free of tall weeds and brush piles.
10. When swimming or fishing, watch out for water moccasins.

FAST FACT:

**Snakes will avoid humans
if given the chance.**



Coral Snake

Adult and juvenile coral snakes have thin yellow bands separating red and black bands and a sleek black nose. While small to medium in size, they are still quite venomous.



Cottonmouth/Water Moccasins (Young)

Young cottonmouths are more colorful than adults, but have the same brown or cream colored stripe along the side of their face. The juvenile has bright, contrasting bands spreading across its back and sides. These are separated by a barely visible white line. The tip of its tail is bright yellow.



Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

Both adult and young diamondbacks are heavy-bodied and dark with a diamond pattern contrasting with white or yellow markings running down their backs. This snake usually has rattles on its tail, but doesn't always rattle before striking.



Cottonmouth/Water Moccasins (Adult)

Adult cottonmouths range from brown to olive or black with a light-colored belly. Like the juvenile, they have a striped face. This snake is usually large and heavy-bodied. When approached, the cottonmouth may open its white-lined mouth in warning.



Pygmy Rattlesnake

Young and adult pygmies have gray, earth colored skin and black splotches. A red-orange stripe on its back creates a spearhead shape on top of the pygmy's head and neck. Its rattles are small and hard to hear.

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