

Insect Stings Cause More Deaths Yearly Than Snake Bites According To Study

For most of us the venom of a stinging insect hurts and is annoying, but is not a serious health problem. For some, the bee sting can kill. Those are the individuals who are allergic to stings. Insect stings cause more deaths yearly than snake bites, says

North Carolina Medical Society. The sting causes pain, swelling, redness, itching and burning. If stung by a honey bee, carefully remove the stinger by gently scraping with a knife blade or finger nail. Wash with soap and

water. Place ice wrapped in cloth or cold compresses on the sting area. Soothing lotions such as calamine or a paste of unseasoned meat tenderizer and a little water are often helpful in relieving discomfort. Those allergic to insect

stings suffer from a condition known as anaphylactic shock. It can occur sometimes from only one sting if the victim has been stung previously. Insect sting shock symptoms include severe swelling in other parts of the body, such as around the eyes, lips

and tongue. Weakness, coughing or wheezing, severe itching, stomach cramps, nausea and vomiting, anxiety, difficulty in breathing, dizziness, collapse, unconsciousness and hives or rash over the body often follow quickly after the sting.

It is important to open an airway and restore breathing. Some experts suggest using a tourniquet in severe reactions where life might be at stake. Emergency insect sting kits available only by prescription sometimes contain a tourniquet. It can be used only if the

sting is on the arm or leg. Don't tie it too tight and loosen every five minutes until medical help arrives. A watchband or belt can serve as a tourniquet. Place cold compresses on the sting area. Keep the victim lying down unless he or

she is short of breath. Then let him or her sit up. Keep the victim quiet and comfortable. If a first aid kit for insect stings is available, use it according to the directions. Get the victim to an emergency room.



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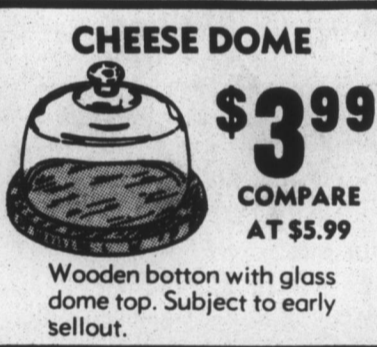
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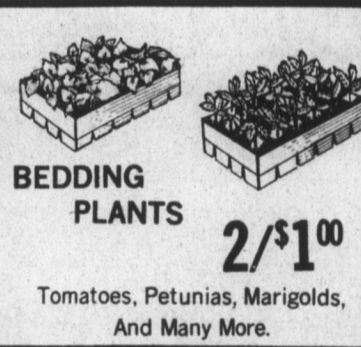
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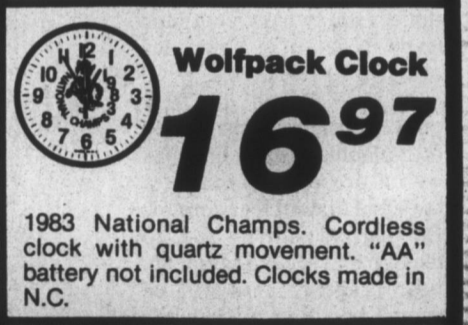


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