

Staying safe around snakes

- Never try to catch or kill a snake.
- Keep your yard tidy and remove rubbish. Snakes love to hide, so give them fewer reasons to hang out at your place.
- If you think you have a snake in the yard, try placing a shallow dish of water at your fence line so the snake doesn't come close to your house. Keep your pets and children indoors.
- Untidy bird aviaries may attract mice; clean up after your birds.
- Give them space and a chance to escape. Walk calmly in a different direction.
- Keep dogs and cats away from a visiting snake. Lock them away.

In the house

- Stay calm to avoid disturbing the snake, otherwise, it may hide in your house to avoid you.
- Never try to catch or kill the snake. Most snake bites occur when people try to catch or kill a snake.
- Call a licensed professional snake catcher.
- Close the internal doors of your house and block any gaps under them. Open the external doors to give the snake a chance to leave.

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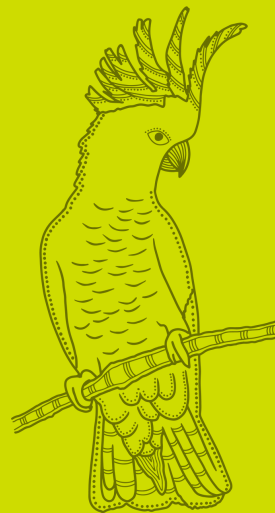
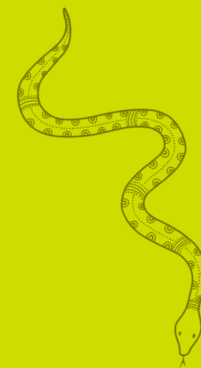
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Living with Wildlife Snakes



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Victoria is home to more than 25 species of snakes. The majority of these are venomous and potentially dangerous to people.

Snakes are important for the balance of ecosystems. Without them, their prey species could increase to problematic levels.

Common species include the Eastern Brown Snake, Tiger Snake, Red-bellied Black Snake, Copperhead (lowland and highland) and the Little Whip Snake.

Snakes shelter under or in rocks, logs or leaf litter, and often within a few hundred metres of water.

Snakes are sometimes drawn to our houses because they are a good source of water.

Wild snakes brumate (becoming sluggish or inactive) over the winter months in southern Australia, but they also often emerge on sunny days in the colder months, and therefore can be encountered in winter.



Above: Eastern Brown Snake

Did you know?

Snake venom has been a valuable medicinal ingredient for centuries, used in various pharmaceuticals.

There are only two python species found in Victoria, the Diamond Python and the Carpet Python.

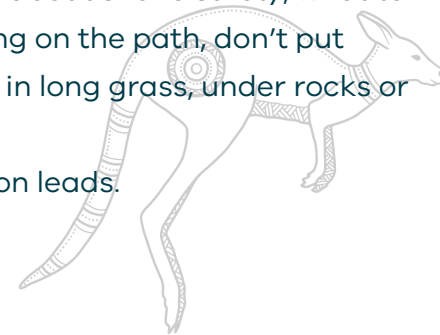
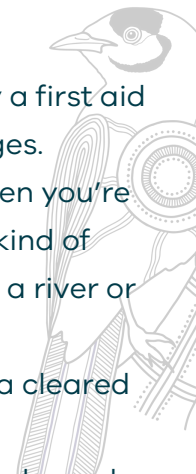
Snakes will defend themselves if confronted or threatened. Most snake bites occur when people try to catch or kill a snake.

Non-venomous snakes can still deliver a painful bite, in defense and if provoked.

Young snakes are just as venomous as adults, but behave differently.

Out and about

- Do first aid training and carry a first aid kit with several snake bandages.
- Check weather conditions when you're planning a walk. Is it a snake kind of day? Heading to a lake, along a river or creek?
- Select a sensible route along a cleared path or track.
- Stay on cleared paths and tracks and watch where you step.
- Wear closed shoes and loose pants. Consider snake gaiters in more remote or bushy areas.
- Talk to kids about snake safety; what to wear, staying on the path, don't put your hands in long grass, under rocks or tin.
- Keep dogs on leads.



Tiger Snake



Red-bellied Black Snake

