



# Living With Snakes

## HELP! There's a snake in my yard — *what should I do?*

**Killing or moving snakes is a quick fix, not a solution.** Where there's one, there's likely to be more. Most bites happen when people handle or try to kill snakes, so to keep your family safe try these alternatives.

### Make your yard less attractive to snakes

- Don't feed or water pets or wildlife on the ground
- Don't create shelter for snakes or their prey with debris piles
- Lush vegetation and water attract snakes and their prey too



### Fence snakes out

- 4ft high with solid buried footing
- Smooth solid or 1/4in (or finer) galvanized mesh
- Cover drainage areas with 1/4in (or finer) galvanized mesh
- Look for trees and shrubs that give climbers a way in (*all snakes can climb*)



### Learn to live safely with your wild neighbors

- Use lights at night
- Create clear, wide paths for safe walking
- Watch where you put your hands and feet
- Use a long stick to disturb vegetation and any animals hiding within it



**Learn your wild neighbors' habits and avoid their areas or observe from a safe distance.** If a venomous snake is in a high-traffic area (in the house, on the patio), wait for him to move, use a long-handled broom or hose to gently encourage him, or call a wildlife professional. Let them know you don't want the animal moved far, ***this is their home too.***

It is not only possible to live with venomous snakes, but can be very rewarding. Snakes are important predators *and prey* — their presence indicates a healthy and productive ecosystem. Learn to live with them and appreciate your encounters.

***Find out more: [LivingWithSnakes.org](http://LivingWithSnakes.org)***