

Copperhead Snakes—How to Avoid Them

Snakes, including copperheads, are a fact of life in Fearington Village. They are best left alone, undisturbed. Snake bites almost always occur when the snake is inadvertently disturbed, so your best bet is to try to avoid them altogether. How?

- First, according to the [North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission](#), clean up any clutter around your home. Remove hiding places, like piles of rocks, wood and other debris that attract rodents and snakes.
- When out for a walk or gardening during daylight hours, keep your eyes open for snakes and avoid walking in wooded areas or disturbing leaf piles where snakes like to hang out. Dog walkers should discourage their pets from investigating brush piles as these may hide copperheads. Watch where you step and where you reach.
- If you are out and about at night in the neighborhood, leave on sidewalk and garage lights. During the warmer months, snakes, as cold-blooded reptiles, like to warm up on warm surfaces such as concrete sidewalks and asphalt. So, use a flashlight when walking after dusk or dark.

Copperhead bites can be painful but are rarely fatal. If bitten by a snake, the [Mayo Clinic](#), among other sources, advises you to call 911. If you believe you were bitten by a copperhead, take a picture of the snake, if you can safely. In any case, as a precaution or for treatment go to the hospital emergency room, where an antivenom injection can be administered if necessary. Be sure to tell the provider, if possible, what kind of snake bite it was.



Copperheads are heavy-bodied and marked with dark brown, hourglass shaped crossbands on a light brown or gray background.

Baby copperheads look like their parents but have yellow or green tails that they wiggle to lure lizards and frogs within striking range.

