



Picnics and Uninvited Guests

It never fails. If you have a picnic, uninvited guests will come. I'm referring to the creatures of the earth that seem to find the smell of charcoal or food appealing. The next time you plan to have a picnic be aware of crawling, flying, pesky insects that are out to ruin your day.

When it comes to the food situation at your picnic, keep all items covered with foil or plastic wrap. Anything that doesn't need to sit out can be stored in the cooler or picnic basket when it's not being served.



Insects that can probably be the biggest nuisance are ants. Did you know that an ant can move objects that are several times their body weight? You can squash a few but there will be reinforcements sent in to replace them and it won't take long.



Bees are another problem. The reason that bees are so scary is that many people are allergic to the venom in their stings. A bee sting can send an allergic person into anaphylactic shock in minutes. Not to mention, that stinger really hurts even if you are not allergic. Another tip to consider, when it comes to bees is to avoid wearing bright colors or perfumes. Bees are attracted to brightly colored objects and sweet smells. Leave those things to the flowers growing around you to keep the bees' attention on them instead of you.



Other insects like spiders may flock or build webs under picnic tables or inside the wooden rafters of the shelter. Flies are attracted to anything and everything. They just want to land on something whether it is your bowl of uncovered potato salad or plate of hotdogs, they don't care. These bugs are too gross for words so we don't want them anywhere near our picnic festivities.

Dealing with insects is a delicate situation. Many insect repellants are made with chemicals that can be hazardous to our health if ingested or inhaled. It may be okay for the skin, but can irritate mucous membranes like the eyes and nose, especially in children. So, what are we to do to keep the critters away so that we can enjoy our picnic?



Avon cosmetics make an insect repellant that comes in a spray or a lotion. It contains sunscreen to protect when outdoors too. The best thing about it is that it's a DEET-free repellant to protect children and adults from pesky mosquitoes, flies, bees, and other biting things. It was always thought that their SkinSoSoft body oil repelled insects quite well even though that was not its intended purpose. Some people agree with this while others don't. You'll need to determine what product is the best for you and your family to keep the bugs from making you itchy and miserable during your picnic.

Keep those summer pests from ruining the fun with safe insect repellants for the body. Cover food at all times and close coolers and containers whenever possible, and you'll be sure to have a fun filled day outdoors