

How to Prevent Snake from Entering into your House

You must really be experiencing a serious snake problem to justify such need for snake repellents. If the purpose of using these chemicals is to simply drive the snakes away, then it may be reasonable. Dousing them with corrosive substances will only make them more aggressive, hence dangerous. Snakes are natural predators. They would only enter places where potential prey can be found. So, eliminating their prey animals (i.e. rodents) is necessary to prevent accidental encounter and eventually fatal bites. It is totally unwise to eliminate snakes. They are part of the mechanism that checks the proliferation of destructive pests. However, certain species are venomous and these types are the ones that really need to be avoided. The use of **Carbolic Acid** is not totally safe. It is a very toxic chemical that is known to cause deaths. Though certain communities in Africa are known to paint carbolic acid in their homes to discourage poisonous snakes from entering, poisoning is also a huge problem especially with children. Certain chemical repellents are available in the market. One that I know of is a combination of sulfur and naphthalene. The way these chemicals work is simple: The snake tastes the air with its forked tongue. Then, it feeds the scent to its Jacobson's organ, which is the snake's organ for taste/smell. We all know how pungent sulfur and **Naphthalene** can be. Now, the snake realizes that this very uncomfortable smell can be a sign of danger and simply moves away. Some people use **Sulfur** alone. But it proved to be toxic and harmful to the snake. Naphthalene itself is very volatile and can be mistaken for candy by very innocent children. You can also have a very safe, healthy and organic alternative: **Garlic**! We used to live in the country and snakes naturally enter our house. My father would pound cloves and cloves of garlic and put them in places where snakes congregate. Well, of course it was quite discomforting sometimes. But we rather dare the smell of garlic than risk getting bitten by a five foot cobra. And it worked! Again, we don't have to kill snakes just for the sake of allaying our fears. There is always a way to co-exist with these helpful but potentially deadly predators. Here are some proven strategies to snake-proof your home:

1. Always keep your surroundings clean and empty containers covered. Snakes love to stay in cool, shady places. So, keep litter and empty containers in proper places.
2. Seal-off potential entry places in the house. If this is not possible, keep rooms well lit anytime someone enters.
3. Keep drawers and cabinets tightly closed/locked. My mom once picked something very smooth and rounded in her closet only to realize it wasn't her favorite buckle. It scared the heck out of her!
4. Have a pet cat, dog, pig, parrot or even a monkey. These animals are known to be very restless and noisy at the sight of a snake.
5. Eliminate your rodent problem. It's nature's law: Wherever the prey goes, the predator follows.
6. Try to make noise or create vibrations by any means to alert the snake of your presence. They would usually withdraw and slide away.
7. Be familiar with species that exist in your locality. Try to know if anti-venom is available.

If the sight of a slithering snake scares the life out of you, please don't hesitate to ask for help! The local animal bureau or animal control team can be of help. *Don't try to kill the snake yourself or ask someone to do just that! It's very dangerous! Snakes really fight back when hurt! So, extra caution is very necessary.*