

This guide can be used to assist in the identification of snakes in the Top End region of the Northern Territory. Snakes are incredibly variable in colour, even within species. Any handling of snakes or confirmation of identification should be left to the experts.

For snake enquires or removals please contact:  
1800 453 210

### What to do if you see a snake

- Stay calm.
- Keep children and pets away from the area.
- Maintain a safe distance from the snake.
- Watch the snake.
- If you can confidently identify the snake as harmless, leave it be.
- If you are unsure of the identification of the snake, take a photograph from a safe distance and call 1800 453 210.

### Snake bite first aid

- Stay calm
- Minimise mobility
- Call 000
- Apply pressure to the wound. A pressure bandage should be applied firmly to the entire limb or wound area, but not so tight that it stops blood flow.
- Splint limb

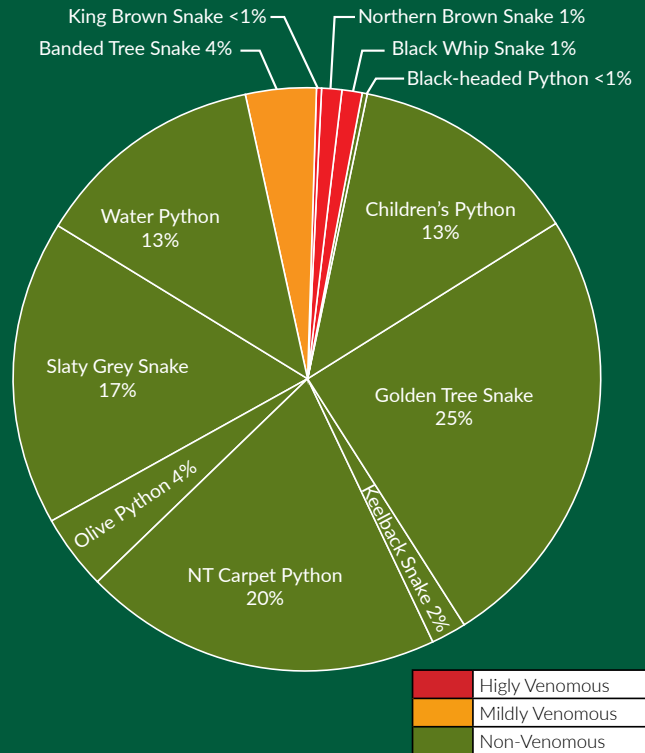
### How to keep snakes away

- Keep your yard clutter free. Clutter provides warm, dark areas where snakes like to hide.
- Avoid tall growing grass and dense shrubs; unkempt grass and dense vegetation provides hiding places for snakes.
- Undertake regular pest control, as pests, such as rats, provide a food source for snakes.
- Remove ground level water sources that snakes may be drawn to drink or swim in. Water also provides a habitat for frogs, an important food source for some species of snake.
- Patch up any holes; by blocking all access points into your home, snakes will be unable to enter. Carefully inspect your property and if you notice any holes, no matter how small, patch them up.
- Use snake and rodent mesh. Household pets like chickens, birds, rabbits and guinea-pigs are all food items for snakes. Keep your pets safe by lining their cages with snake and rodent mesh.

### Snake facts

- Snake venom is designed to kill prey items, not people. Snakes are scared of people and only bite them out of fear. Most bites occur when people try to corner, capture or kill snakes. **Pick up the phone, not the snake.**
- Snakes play an essential role in the environment. They help keep rat and mice populations at bay. Having them around your property may deter pests from your home.
- In the NT, permits are required to keep snakes. Snakes must not be acquired from the wild.

### Snake removals in the Darwin region



### Key to snake identification

Non-venomous		Eats Mammals		Climbing	
Mildly venomous		Eats Reptiles		Most active in the day	
Highly venomous		Eats Frogs		Ground dwelling	
		Eats Birds		Most active in the night	

# Common Snakes of the Top End of the Northern Territory



[www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au)





Photo: Brendan Schembri

**Water Python** *Liasis mackloti*, dark brown to black top, yellow belly, rainbow sheen.



Photo: Phil Mangion

**Golden Tree Snake** *Dendrelaphis punctulata*, tan to golden yellow, darker top with lighter underbelly, lighter markings along body, slate grey to bluish head and neck.



Photo: Ray Chatto

**Banded Tree Snake (Night Tiger)** *Boiga irregularis*, white with brown-red bands, bulging eyes, slender bodied.



Photo: Brendan Schembri

**Childrens Python** *Antaresia childreni*, darker blotches (mottled colour), defined head and jaw, lighter underbelly, grey brown to dark brown in colour.



Photo: Phil Mangion

**Slaty-grey Snake** *Stegonotus cucullatus*, dark grey to black, glossy, slender bodied.



Photo: Brendan Schembri

**Great Black Whipsnake** *Demansia papuensis*, slender, quick moving, dull look to colour, whip-like tail, typically has a red tinge to the edge of the tail.



Photo: Phil Mangion

**Black-Headed Python** *Aspidites melanocephalus*, black head, reddish-tan and cream bands, heavy bodied.



Photo: Grant Husband

**Keelback** *Tropidonophis mairii*, keeled (each scale is ridged) scales, raised, rough look to scales, grey/green in colour.



Photo: Brendan Schembri

**Northern Brown Snake** *Pseudonaja nuchalis*, defined scales, can have orange, or yellow colour spots on underbelly, lighter brown (colour can vary), typically has a marking behind the head.



Photo: Phil Mangion

**Olive Python** *Liasis olivaceus*, kahki colour, oval shaped, defined head, darker on top with cream to pale yellow underbody, heavy bodied.



Photo: Brendan Schembri

**NT Carpet Python**, *Morelia spilota variegata* - brown/black/cream banded pattern, heavy bodied, large defined head and jaw.

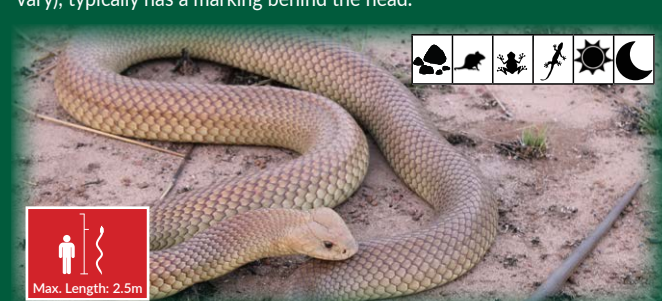


Photo: Chris Peberdy

**Mulga Snake (King Brown)** *Pseudechis australis*, large and defined scales, heavy bodied, colour can vary greatly.