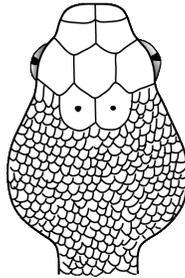
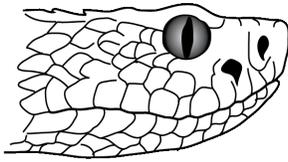
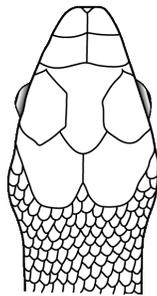
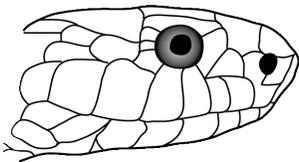


# Snake Signs and Conflict Prevention

## Venomous



## Non-venomous



### LEGAL STATUS

Snakes are classified as non-game animals and are protected by Utah state laws.

A person cannot collect or possess a live wild snake without receiving a Certificate of Registration from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Great Basin rattlesnake



Gopher snake



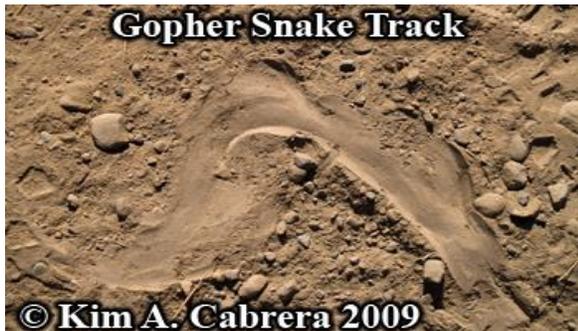
The venomous snakes in Utah have broad, triangular-shaped heads, and vertical eye pupils. There are heat sensory 'pits' on each side of the snake's head between the nostrils and eyes. Most venomous snakes in Utah have rattles on their tails.

Non-venomous snakes have longer snouts and round pupils.

If you can't tell if the snake is venomous from a distance, leave it alone and treat it as if it were venomous. Any snake may respond aggressively if agitated.

## Signs

Gopher Snake Track



© Kim A. Cabrera 2009



Snake skin shed

## Avoid Conflicts:

### Habitat

The best way to reduce problems associated with snakes is to make your property unattractive to them. Keep lawns mowed, weeds and other vegetation thinned, and remove wood piles, rock piles, and other debris piles. Control rodents and remove rodent attractants, such as bird seed, fallen fruit, and pet food.



### Exclusion

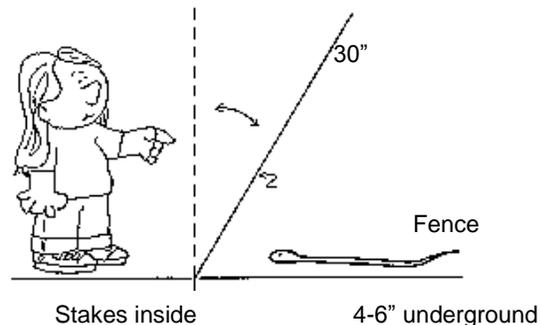
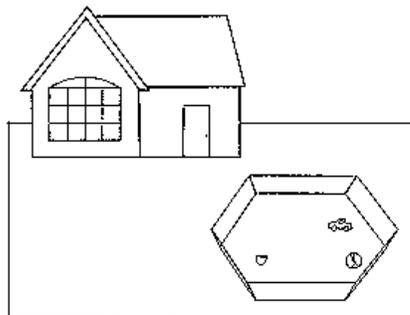
Snakes may enter buildings in search of shelter or food. Exclude snakes from buildings by closing off all possible entrances. Check the foundation for cracks and openings larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, and fill these openings with caulk or concrete mortar. Metal screen or  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch hardware cloth can also be used to close off openings. Pay special attention to areas where pipes or wires enter the building. Keep garage doors closed.



Leaving garage doors partially open could allow snakes to enter in search of cool denning areas. Hardware cloth can be placed behind the slats underneath porches and decks.

### Snake-proof fence

This exclusion method may be costly, but can be very effective at keeping snakes out of your yard. A snake-proof fence can be constructed from  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hardware cloth, 36 inches wide; with the bottom edge buried at least 6 inches in the ground. The fence should be slanted outward at a 30-degree angle. Gates should swing inward because of the outward slope of the fence. A 36-inch vertical fence with a 12-inch lip at the top, facing outside and angled downward at a 30 degree angle would work as well.



### Toxicants and Repellents

There are no toxicants or repellents that have proven useful for snake control.

## Removal

If a snake must be moved out of an area, you may be able to encourage it to leave by aiming a garden hose spray at the snake. For venomous snakes, keep at a safe distance of at least 15 feet away while hosing the snake. Continue to hose until the snake has moved off your property. If the snake will not retreat, stop and call a professional to remove the snake.

**If you do not know if the snake is venomous, act as if it were and do not attempt to trap and move the snake yourself. In the case of venomous snakes, this should be done only by trained personnel from reputable wildlife removal companies or personnel from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources or USDA Wildlife Services. DO NOT TRY TO MOVE THE SNAKE YOURSELF.**



Photo ICWDM

If you have problems with snakes that cannot be resolved by following these tips, consult a professional, licensed animal control company.

Visit this link:

[http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/nuisance\\_control.php](http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/nuisance_control.php)

*Information from USU Cooperative Extension Wildlife Damage and Management Series and Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management (ICWDM).*