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## **How to hunt scorpions with a UV light**

Here's an inspection tip:

Scorpions glow under a UV light. That's a good thing since they don't move much and they tend to blend in with their surroundings. When ultraviolet (UV) light hits a scorpion, proteins in its exoskeleton give off a fluorescent yellow-green glow. Why do they glow? No one really knows for sure. Some say it helps them find each other, or that the glow stuns their prey (they hunt at night).

Supposedly, this phenomenon was discovered by uranium hunters in the 1960s. As they used UV lights to search the California deserts for the ore, they saw greenish-yellow animals moving around and soon discovered that they were fluorescing scorpions.

- Make sure you are wearing long pants, long sleeves, boots, and thick gloves.
- Hunt at night- a warm night (above 20°C.) without full moon or bright lights is best.
- Search in moist, dark places such as: stacks of lumber, brush, or stones, in debris piles, firewood piles, in mulch around foundations, under potted plants, under loose tree bark, in stone rubble walls or cinder block walls, weep holes in brick, under shake shingles, and in children's sand boxes.
- You can sometimes lure scorpions out of hiding by spreading moist burlap on the ground near infested areas.



Scorpions are nocturnal. They hide during the day to stay out of the sunlight and conserve moisture. They avoid UV light and become less active when in bright light. Scorpions even avoid bright moonlight. If scorpions are hungry, they'll hunt under lights, but if they've eaten, they stay hidden, especially on bright, moonlit nights. Scorpions can remain in hiding for weeks or even months after feeding so it's important to find and treat their hiding places. General treatment of an area will miss many scorpions. Once inside, scorpions can be found throughout a building, from crawlspace to attic, wherever moisture and prey are found.

- As you find scorpions, you can spot-treat immediately, or place some kind of stake or marker so that you can come back and treat the area in daylight.

What else glows in the dark? Many millipedes do, and reportedly some centipedes. You may already use a handheld UV light to detect rodent urine. The bad news is that some other non-pest things glow under UV light, too: certain bleaches, soaps, tars, lubrication oils, grease, glue, sulphide waste, and sugar and rice kernels.

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