



WESTERN DIAMONDBACK AND MOJAVE RATTLESNAKE

**Identification**

When first spotting a snake, hopefully from a safe distance, take note of the tail region. The rattlesnakes of our area will have a very distinct black and white ring, or banded pattern, very close to the end of the tail. The actual "rattle" occurs following these distinct black and white bands. The rattle can sometimes be difficult to see, or even missing, but the bands are generally very apparent.

If you can not see the tail region, the head can help with identification. Our rattlesnakes have a somewhat "triangular," or "heart" shaped head which does not conform to the rest of their body. Again, the images above illustrate this.

Never rely on coloration or patterns on the back or sides of snakes to assume they are not venomous. Regardless of what you might read or hear, and regardless of the source, coloration and patterns vary greatly. What appears to be a harmless gopher snake just might turn out to be something else!



WESTERN DIAMONDBACK



**Mojave vs. Western diamondback Identification**

Both species are extremely similar in appearance in our area. Both are venomous. For more information on species differences, check our local Pima College, Desert Ecology of Tucson, Arizona page.

MOJAVE RATTLESNAKE



Please do note that the majority of Mojave rattlesnakes we encounter do not have a "greenish" coloration to them.

**Life History**

Both of these species are viviparous, meaning that they give birth to live young. The Western diamondback can give birth to 6 to 25 young at one time.