

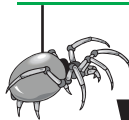


Customer Bulletin

Family Pride In Excellence Since 1921

www.WesternExterminator.com

Number 8



What You Should Know About Spiders



Spiders are ancient animals, with a history going back many millions of years. Depending on your point of view, they can be at the same time both fearsome and fascinating. They are abundant and widespread, and are beneficial predators that reduce pest populations (flies, crickets, mites, etc.) in and around homes, yards, gardens, and crops. Wherever you live you are probably close to a spider.

Spiders have eight legs (four pairs). They have two body regions: a cephalothorax (fused head and thorax) and an abdomen, which are joined together by a narrow waist. Most spiders have six or eight simple eyes in various arrangements. All have a pair of jaw-like structures, the chelicerae, each of which ends in a hollow fang through which venom can be ejected. Spiders are predators that typically feed on living prey and use a variety of tactics to capture their meals. Some species are web builders that ensnare their prey, while others are active hunters that search for food. Still others are passive hunters that prefer to lie in wait.

Like the majority of arthropods, the venom of most species is not very toxic to humans, usually resulting in no more than a slight swelling, inflammation, or itching sensation. Most spiders' fangs are too small or weak to puncture human skin, and their venom is designed to stun web-ensnared insects. Spiders usually will not attempt to bite unless accidentally trapped against the skin or grasped, although some species actively guard their egg sacs or young.

THE MYTH OF THE BROWN RECLUSE SPIDER

Despite sensationalist news headlines, there are no populations of brown recluse spiders in Western Exterminator Company's service areas. Medical journals such as *The Public's Health* and the University of California have recently published articles cautioning medical professionals and urging them not to be so quick to blame spiders for skin lesions and swelling. Conditions that can cause necrotic wounds and/or that have been misdiagnosed as brown recluse spider bites include: infections with *Staphylococcus* or *Streptococcus* species, Herpes Simplex, diabetic ulcer, Lyme Disease, fungal infection, poison ivy/oak, dermatitis, and others.



BROWN RECLUSE SPIDER

1-800-WEST-EXT (1-800-937-8398)

THE FINAL WORD IN PEST CONTROL.

Providing you with valuable information for your protection...

WHAT WESTERN CAN DO FOR YOU



With Western's regular service you are protected from the invasion of various insects and vermin. During every visit, our Service Technician performs a pest control inspection and will give you vital pest control preventative recommendations.

Spiders in particular are very resourceful, and will quickly go to work rebuilding webs when they are damaged, unless of course the spider is destroyed along with the web. As part of your regular service, our Technician will brush down spider webs from under eaves (less than 10 feet tall) all around your home. Treating low lying shrubs will also help curb the spider population.



Western Exterminator Company has many effective programs to deal with residential and commercial spider concerns. Should spiders enter your structure, we can treat the inside. Our control measures focus on giving complete protection to you and your family. What's best for you depends on the spider pressure in your area, and if other pests are of concern as well.

SPIDERS THAT MAY BE FOUND IN WESTERN EXTERMINATOR COMPANY'S SERVICE AREAS INCLUDE:



CELLAR SPIDER

Cellar Spiders live in the safety of human homes: attics, cellars, garages and messy rooms where they hang upside down in webs but they do not hurt people. They have very long, skinny legs and many times are confused with Daddy Longlegs.



BLACK WIDOW

Black Widow Spider bites are extremely painful and temporarily debilitating, but fatalities from untreated widow bites are uncommon. Because of the possible severity of Black Widow bites, immediate medical attention is important.



GOLDEN ORB

Golden Orb spiders are possibly the world's best web spinners. The female spins a web of fibers thin enough to be invisible to insect prey, yet tough enough to snare a flying bird without snapping.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPIDERS?

- Western Exterminator Company:
www.WesternExterminator.com
- Los Angeles Spider Survey (Great Photos):
www.phorid.net/spiders/index.htm
- Brown Recluse:
<http://www.lapublichealth.org> or www.lapublichealth.org see Feb 2003 issue and <http://spiders.ucr.edu>
- Handouts on many pests:
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PDF/PESTNOTES/index.html>

Since 1921, Western Exterminator Company has been a recognized leader in the "war on bugs", protecting people and property from unwanted pests and vermin. For all your termite and pest control needs, call Western!

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