Spiders

A few hundred spider species can be found in the Tri-State area.

Although all species have poison glands, only 3 found locally are typically a health concern:

The yellow sac spider (the most common of the 3 found inside homes), the brown recluse (fiddle-back) spider, and the black widow spider.

Cellar Spiders

Long-bodied Cellar Spider

Description:

1/4--1/3 inch in length, thin elongated, tan colored (hairless) body, with long slender legs.

Habits:

One of the most common occurring household spider in our tri-state area.

This spider will construct webs commonly in basements, barns, sheds, & warehouses, where it hangs upside down most all day.
They are considered somewhat beneficial house cleaners of flying insects and occasional crawling insects.

Control usually made when number of sightings exceed customer “tolerance levels”.

Control:

Our service technicians can provide a critical web-cleaning process (multiple webs are constructed by a single female) by sweeping the web and leaving a light insecticide residual behind.

This is recommended in addition to a standard interior/ exterior triple-barrier insecticide residual treatment for spider and general insect pest control.

Wolf Spider

Description:

Tan and dark brown banded spider with hairy body and legs resembling a tarantula. Total body and leg combined length can be from around 1 1/2 inches to 3 inches +.

Habits:

This spider species does not construct a web. Normally found inside on basement foundation sills, retainer ledges & on floor. Garage floors inside, plus outside in low areas or on the ground.
It shelters in cracks, crevices and voids. Aggressive hunter periodically day and night.

**Control:**

A comprehensive interior / exterior triple-barrier residual treatment using liquids, dusts and granulars. Crevices and voids must be injected.

**Sac Spiders**

**Description:**

Small (3/8 inch) and pale yellow (yellow sac spider) or tan in color. The legs may appear light gray to yellow. A silk tube around one inch in length is typically constructed along ceiling/wall junctures and will hide the spider during daytime hours. The most common of the 3 local "venomous spiders of concern" found inside the home.

**Habits:**

The Sac Spider roams at night to feed on insect prey. Commonly found in hallways and sometimes throughout basement areas.

The silk tube is around one inch in length, found at ceiling-wall junctures, and will hide the spider during daytime hours, before it roams at night to feed on insect prey.

Accidental bites occur to people when they roll over onto the roaming spiders during sleep, or slip on shoes or clothing with one inside.

Most all misdiagnosed "brown recluse" or black widow" spider bites are commonly from this
species.

**Control:**

Emphasis on interior residual treatment, with web cleaning a necessary part of service. Exterior triple residual (liquid, dust & granular) barrier recommended.

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**Brown Recluse Spider**

**Description:**

Brown Recluse are around 3/4 to 1 inch in diameter (slightly larger with outstretched legs), and have a distinct violin shaped dark area just behind the head.

**Habits:**

Brown Recluse Spiders are a rare occurrence inside homes or buildings.

They prefer "reclusive" habitats in debris, wood piles, concrete hollow block, clutter, etc. "Accidental" bites as described above are very rare, as this spider typically avoids human activity day and night.

**Control:**

Emphasis on exterior triple-barrier residual (liquid, dust and granular) application.
Permanent harborages and landscape fixtures are treated. However, clutter must be eliminated for successful control.

Interior monitoring with glue traps, and pinpoint residual applications made to voids are needed for eradication.

Black Widow Spider

The black widow spider female is jet black in color, with two red triangles on the underside of her “plump sized” abdomen, coming together to form a triangle. The male body is slender in size and a brown-white mix in color. The female body is around 1/2 inch (male body is ¼ inch) and with the addition of the leg span can reach around 2 inches total in length.

Habits:

Black widows do not aggressively seek out prey, they are passive hunters, making webs in out of the way areas such as behind and beneath boards, concrete blocks, large rocks, etc and wait for their victims. Contrary to popular belief, the male is rarely consumed after mating. He will remain near the nest "freeloading" on insect prey paralyzed by the female and brought in as food for the young.

Warnings:
Black Widow Spiders are among the most dangerous spiders in the world! Their concentrated venom is roughly ten times more potent than even rattlesnake venom. However, the amount released in their bite is much less in comparison. The neurotoxin can be health threatening to young children (under 2 yrs of age). The elderly should be careful also, especially if they already experience a heart condition or other serious health concerns. The venom could even potentially trigger a heart attack in a "healthy" middle aged person.

Black Widow Spiders do not aggressively search and are rarely on the move. Most spider bites occur when picking up lumber, stones, blocks, scrap metal, etc. that has sat idle for long periods of time outside or in garages. Protect yourself: wear gloves, long sleeves, long pants, and boots when moving or disposing of these items. People in outlying areas of Northern Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana should be cautious of potential interactions with these spiders when involved in cleaning out old buildings or sheds.

In Northern Kentucky we have personally encountered more black widow spiders in rural areas, most notably - Verona/ Crittenden, Walton, and the Petersburg area of northern KY. In some cases finding 8-12 spiders beneath modular homes, outside around homes, barns and garages. On rare occasions we will encounter a single female in a home in town or in a subdivisions area.