



In need of some assistance with a spider infestation?

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SPIDERS:
Pest Advice

What do spiders look like?

It may come as a surprise to some that spiders aren't actually insects; they're part of a group called arachnids, which all have eight legs, two body segments and an ability to strike fear into the hearts of many! There are approximately 650 species of spiders in the UK, varying in size from 2.5mm to 140mm. They come in a muted rainbow of colours, from various shades of brown, reddish-brown, green, yellow, beige and black, with some species prettily patterned.

Some of the most common spiders in the UK include; the common house spider, labyrinth spider, false widow spider, money spider and cellar spiders, also known as daddy longlegs.

Where do spiders live?

In the UK, spiders split their time between the outdoors and the indoors, depending on the species and the season! Indoor spiders, such as the common house spider, seek out dusty corners and crevices, dark cupboards and any hidey holes they can squeeze into. Outdoor spiders live in all sorts of places, from self-built burrows to garden sheds, trees and even water.

What do spiders eat?

Spiders are predators and most species eat insects, although it's almost always either live prey, or prey that they've recently killed on the menu. Their choice of weapon? A spider's web. Web-building spiders weave



DID YOU KNOW?

Spiders are found on every single continent, except for Antarctica.



incredible constructions made from silvery silk which trap insects such as flies, mosquitoes, moths and butterflies. There are some hunting species which lay in wait and attack their prey as it comes dangerously close.

Are spiders dangerous?

In short, no – at least not the majority of spiders found in the UK. Although some spiders might bite if provoked, most spider bites will not cause a reaction or have a significant effect on people. The bite of a tiny number of species, such as the false widow and yellow sac spider which are both rare, may be painful and cause swelling, redness and in extreme cases, vomiting and nausea.

However, despite being largely harmless, spiders are the root of one of the most prevalent phobias in the world – arachnophobia, which can cause significant distress for its sufferers.

What are the signs of an infestation?

Keen to avoid contact with humans, spiders can be difficult to spot, although you might spy one scuttling across your walls or floor. The most obvious sign to look out for is spider webs in dark, secluded areas of your home, such as attics, corners, cupboards and storage boxes. You should also be extra vigilant as autumn approaches, as some spiders migrate from the outdoors to your indoors to hibernate, often bringing an egg sac with them! These are often fixed to a surface, hidden in the web or carried by the female.

How can I prevent a spider infestation?

Keeping your house clean and clear of clutter minimises the number of hiding spaces for these eight-legged creatures, as well as regularly sweeping, dusting and vacuuming. Patch up any cracks, holes or gaps in doors and windows to prevent spiders from sneaking in, and spray peppermint or eucalyptus oil in the corners of your house as spiders hate the smell! Deter other insects from making your home theirs, as they are a spider's food source.

How to get rid of spiders

As most spiders are harmless, the best advice is to simply leave them alone – however, for many people with a fear of spiders, this isn't an option! And, despite not being dangerous, spiders can be a nuisance, especially if they breed and multiply. Many homeowners would prefer not to share their space with spiders, and a professional pest controller can provide the peace of mind that your spider infestation has been eliminated, efficiently and effectively. Armed with the appropriate equipment, specialist insecticides and skills, pest controllers offer a range of suitable solutions for treatments.

DID YOU KNOW?

A spider has no bones; instead, it has an exoskeleton which is like a tough suit of armour which protects its body.

