



## Spiders



Where to  
find spiders  
inside  
buildings

Sometimes you need to find the source of a spider infestation, especially if the spider in question is a black widow or other poisonous spider. The key thing is to remember that spiders hang out where their prey hangs out. Think about indoor areas that are most apt to have accumulations of insects. That's where you'll find spiders.

**Outdoor or indoor lighting.** Look for areas where lights are left on at night. Spiders gravitate to these sites to catch flying insects. Outdoor lights draw them to entrance ways. Inside, look near night lights in bathrooms or bedrooms, or where lights shine through windows. Check corners of windowsills and the space between inner windows and outer storm windows, or between screen doors and inner doors.

**Dark, secluded places.** The same spider that is out and active near lights at night may spend the day (when you're likely to be inspecting) hidden behind moulding, or inside light fixtures, or in boxes or stacks of paper or other materials.

**Look up!** Look for loose webbing or globular egg sacs in dark corners, behind large items hanging on the wall, at junctures of walls and ceilings, around window frames, especially behind drapery, and in closets. Groups of spiders can live together in overlapping webs under furniture, in corners or closets, in window frames, and inside the empty space between screen and basement doors.

**Look down!** The first thing you see may be liquid fecal droppings. The dried fecal spots range from white to gray. If you see spots on the floor under a piece of furniture, equipment, table, or chair, it's a good bet that the spider is hanging from a web or hiding in a crevice directly above, but out of sight.

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Black widow spiders prefer to make their nests low, within a few feet of the ground. Black widows are usually found outdoors under stones or wood piles, or in sheds, garages, and other outbuildings. When black widows are found indoors, they're usually limited to unoccupied areas such as garages or crawl spaces where they nest in undisturbed areas, in and behind objects.

The best method of control is to control all insects that the spiders feed on. Alternatively, you need to spray the spider directly with a contact insecticide, as a surface spray will not be absorbed by the spider.

**Battling to complete your pest control qualification?**

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