

# FACT sheet

# Spiders

**EXODUS**  
PEST CONTROL

## **Spiders**

Spiders can be divided into two main groups:

- crawling or hunting spiders
- webbing spiders



White Tail Spider

## **Crawling or hunting spiders**

This group of spiders includes funnel web, huntsman, trapdoor, mouse and white tailed spiders which are not found on webs, but commonly make their home under leaf litter or bark, in hollows or purpose built burrows, and in general garden areas. Unlike the webbing spiders they hunt down their prey down or lie in wait to ambush their prey.

Control of crawling/hunting spiders is often limited to removal or elimination of each individual spider. Unless the species is considered dangerous, the best method of dealing with these spiders is to move them back into their habitat.



Huntsman Spider



Funnel Web Spider

## **Webbing spiders**

Webbing spiders depend upon silk for their movements. When young spiderlings disperse from the parent web, they produce a strand of silk which is carried by the wind. The spiderling sits or hangs on to the silk and then builds its web wherever it lands. This process is known as ballooning. Mature spiders, when moving in search of food, produce a strand of silk which is carried by the wind until it comes into contact with a building or other stationary object. The spider then travels across this strand of silk and proceeds to build a new web. This is known as bridging. Under some conditions, spiders are considered beneficial because they feed on insects. However the unsightly webs used to catch the insects usually outweigh the beneficial aspect.

Spiders are found around the home, schools, and commercial properties preying on the other insects attracted by the food and security offered. Here are two we have to contend with on a regular basis:



Redback Spider

### **Redback spider**

The female of the Redback spider is the one that can kill. The female Redback is approximately 10-15mm long, and is all black, except for the large red stripe on the abdomen. They are common in urban habitats such as garden sheds, under steps or logs, and around swimming pools or piles of rubbish. They build webs in dry, sheltered sites, often with the upper part of the web hidden from sunlight.

### **Black House spider**

The other is the black house spider which leaves unsightly webs around windows and doors. Black house or window spiders are shy and quick to hide in retreat at the back of their webs if disturbed. Webs are often made in the corners of windows, and may have a funnel-shaped retreat in which the spider shelters.



Black House Spider

## **Economic and health impacts of spiders**

Almost all spiders possess venom and all species of hunting spiders are potentially dangerous.

Many ground dwelling spiders such as the funnel web and mouse spiders are aggressive, and will adopt an attacking posture when threatened, rearing up on their hind legs. They are thickset, with large fangs capable of inflicting a painful and potentially serious bite. The aggressive female mouse spider is potentially dangerous to humans and animals, but bites are uncommon.

Redback bites are the greatest single cause of serious envenomation in the country and a bite from the female can kill.

Due to the variety and individual habits of spiders, the proper identification of species present is the first step in controlling this pest. Your EXODUS Pest Control Technician has the years of experience, professional products and action plan to do the job. After inspecting your dwelling your technician will explain our proven treatment plan to control spiders. EXODUS recommends not to disturb or wipe down webbing prior to our inspection or treatment. Webbing assists with the identification and treatment of this common pest.