

Spiders 101: Know Your Pest

Use this guide to identify the types of spiders native to our region

House Spider



Appearance

House spiders are often yellowish-brown in color with an elongated abdomen, although their color can be highly variable.

Region: Named after the fact that it is the spider species most commonly encountered indoors, house spiders are found worldwide and are common throughout the United States and Canada.

Habitat: While this species can be found under furniture and in closets, they are most commonly encountered in garages, sheds and barns, where catching prey is easier for them. Outside, they are often found spinning webs around windows and under eaves, especially near light sources that attract potential food sources.

Threat: House spiders are nuisance pests and pose relatively little threat to humans, but they may bite when threatened.

Unique Facts: A female house spider can lay more than 3,500 eggs in their lifetime.

Appearance

Jumping spiders are compact in shape with short legs, causing them to sometimes be mistaken for black widow spiders. They are usually black in color and covered with dense hair or scales that are brightly colored.

Region: Jumping spiders are found throughout the United States.

Habitat: Jumping spiders build web retreats, which can be found both indoors and outdoors. These spiders frequently hunt inside structures around windows and doors because more insects are attracted to these areas and their vision is best in sunlit areas. Outside, jumping spiders are commonly seen running over tree bark, under stones and boards, and on bushes, fences, decks and the outside of buildings.

Threat: Jumping spiders may bite in defense, but their bite is not poisonous. In fact, this species is more likely to run from a human threat rather than attack.

Unique Facts: Unlike most spiders, jumping spiders are active during the daytime and seem to like sunshine. They have the best vision of all spiders and are able to detect movement up to 18" in distance. However, they can't see very well at night.

Jumping Spider



Cellar Spider



Appearance

Cellar spiders are pale yellow to light brown in color with long, skinny legs and a small body.

Region: There are about 20 species of cellar spiders found throughout the United States and Canada.

Habitat: Cellar spiders are typically found in areas with high humidity and moisture, basements and crawlspaces. They can also be found in the corners of garages, sheds, barns and warehouses, on eaves, windows and ceilings, and inside closets, sink cabinets and bath-traps.

Threat: Cellar spiders are not known to bite and therefore pose no threat to humans.

Unique Facts: Cellar spiders are commonly referred to as "daddy-long-legs" because of their very long, thin legs.

Appearance

Wolf spiders are usually dark brown with paler stripes or markings, and they have long, spiny legs. This species is often large and hairy, which can alarm some people.

Region: More than 100 species of wolf spiders are found throughout the United States and Canada.

Habitat: Wolf spiders can enter structures in search of prey. Once inside, they tend to stay at or near floor level, especially along walls and under furniture. Wolf spiders may be brought indoors with firewood. Outside, this species can be found under stones, landscape timbers, firewood, leaves and other debris. They often rest in such sheltered places during the day.

Threat: Wolf spiders can bite, but it's extremely rare unless they are provoked or handled.

Unique Facts: Unlike most spiders, wolf spiders don't hunt with webs. Instead, they actually chase down their prey using their fast running ability.

Wolf Spider



For additional information on spiders and other house pests, follow our blog. We regularly provide critical information, tips, and tricks for keeping your home pest-free!

Images provided by PestWorld.org / Tom Myers