

# BLACK WIDOW SPIDER

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## *Itsy Bitsy Spider*



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### Identification

Black widows are notorious spiders. The female black widow is normally shiny black, with a red hourglass marking on the underside of the abdomen.

The abdominal marking may range in color from yellowish orange to red and its shape may range from an hourglass to a dot.

The body of an adult black widow female is about 1/2 inch long.

Average life span in the wild: 1 to 3 years



Size relative to a paper clip

### Behavior

The black widow is commonly found in the following places:

- Outdoors - woodpiles, rubble piles, under stones, in hollow stumps, and in rodent burrows, sheds and garages.
- Indoors - undisturbed, cluttered areas in basements and crawl spaces

The animals most at risk from the black widow's bite are insects—and male black widow spiders. Females sometimes kill and eat their counterparts after mating in a macabre behavior that gave the insect its name. Black widows are solitary year-round except during this violent mating ritual.

### Symptoms

This spider's bite is much feared because its venom is reported to be 15 times stronger than a rattlesnake's. In humans, bites produce muscle aches, nausea, and a paralysis of the diaphragm that can make breathing difficult. The pain from the bite will usually persist for the first 8-12 hours and symptoms may continue for several days; however, contrary to popular belief, most people who are bitten suffer no serious damage—let alone death. But bites can be fatal—usually to small children and the elderly. Fortunately, fatalities are fairly rare.

### Bite Treatment

Clean the bite area with soap and water. Apply ice to the bite area to slow absorption of the venom. Elevate and immobilize the extremity. Capture the spider, if at all possible, for identification purposes. Seek medical attention immediately. If you have a heart condition or other heart problem, you may need hospitalization



This Black Widow Spider was found in Wolf Runne with termite tubes going up the foundation behind

### Control

Control efforts should target black widow spider webs because that is where the spider spends most of its time. Control is best achieved by having an inspection by Activ Pest Solutions and having a treatment performed when necessary. Activ Pest Solutions requires a thorough inspection of the home to locate the pest.

If you are interested in having your home protected please call and schedule an appointment with one of our Certified Technicians.



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