



HSE ALERT- SPIDER SAFETY

In the South, brown recluse and black widow spiders are the most dangerous. While neither of these spiders is aggressive, they will bite when threatened. The female black widow will especially bite to protect her eggs. The bite can be severe and, in rare instances, deadly. Brown recluse spiders are sometimes called fiddle backs due to the dark brown, violin-shaped pattern extending from the head down the back, with the neck of the violin pointing to the rear. These non-hairy spiders are tan to dark brown with darker legs. Black widows in the Southern United States are shiny black and approximately half-inch in length. They have a round abdomen with a distinctive red hourglass on the underside.

Both spiders are nocturnal, thus active at night. They prefer dark corners or crevices and warm, dry areas. They are commonly found in attics, basements, garages, and storage areas. Brown recluse spiders often live in cardboard boxes.

AVOID BEING BITTEN:

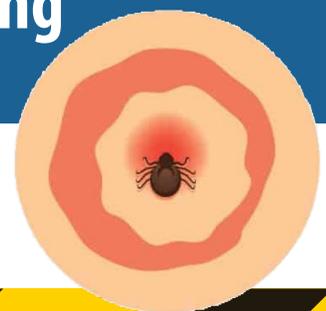
- Workplace safety is always a top priority. Make these a habit of avoiding potential hazards:
- Clean up the clutter in the outdoor job site, garages, and storage sheds.
- Avoid stacking crates and other containers against the buildings.
- Wear gloves when working near potential spider habitats. Avoid reaching into dark spaces.
- Avoid leaving gloves or other clothing on the ground. If you do, shake them out before putting them on.

IF YOU ARE BITTEN:

- Report the incident to your workplace safety manager.
- Identify the spider, if possible. This will help the doctor in diagnosis.
- For black widow spider bites, go to the nearest hospital emergency department.
- Brown recluse spider bites should be seen by a physician the same day.
- Wash the area thoroughly with cool water and mild soap. Do not scrub.
- Cold packs may be applied to the bite area. Do not use heat.
- If possible, elevate the bite area above the heart level.
- Over-the-counter pain relievers may be taken.

SPIDER BITE SYMPTOMS

- > Redness
- > Inflammation
- > Mild Pain
- > Itching



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