

SPIDERS – Control Advice

Description

There are hundreds of different types of spiders in the UK and they usually make webs to try and trap their food i.e. flying insects. Webs are often abandoned in sites that do not catch enough insects and a dusty or dirty cobweb is likely to be an abandoned web. Most spiders are solitary creatures and large numbers are not often seen in a property except when spider eggs have just hatched (after which the young spiders seek out new sites of their own). None of the spiders that are native to Britain are dangerous.

Control measures

Spiders usually make their webs where they can catch insects. Exterior lights attract insects, which in turn can attract spiders, so external lights should only be used when needed. Preventative measures to stop spiders entering homes should also include sealing cracks in exterior walls.

When found indoors, the best way to deal with typical house spiders is to use a cup or glass. Place the cup/glass over the spider and slide a piece of paper underneath it to trap it and then set it free outside the home. Some people cannot face going near a spider, consequently there are aerosol sprays available from supermarkets or DIY stores that can be used against spiders (if using such a chemical spray, always follow the manufacturers instructions and wash hands after use).

Occasionally there are reports of unusual large foreign spiders being discovered inside homes after hitching a lift into the UK inside fruit packaging or in luggage from overseas holidays. These may be more aggressive than British spiders and thus common sense should be used before deciding how to deal with them. Further advice can be obtained from the Insect Information Service at the Natural History Museum (telephone 020 7942 5742 or website www.nhm.ac.uk).

Crawley Borough Council does not provide a pest control service to deal with spiders.