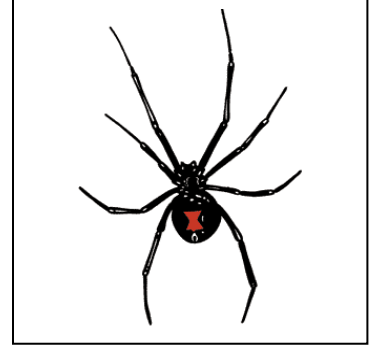


Black Widow Spider

Size: Females 1-3/8" – 1-1/2" overall dimensions
Males less than 1/2 the size of females.

Description:

- Males and young females are reddish brown to orangish white.
- Females maturing into complete black with distinctive red hour glass on the underside of abdomen.



Biology and Habits: Small populations of a representative species named “*Latrodectus Variolus Walckenaer*” (Northern Black Widow) have been found in Eastern Northern States and Canada. Only the female can provide a toxic bite. The venom is a neurotoxin resulting in high blood pressure, increased body temperature, profuse sweating and vomiting anywhere from 3 – 48 hours after bitten.

An anti-venom is available from your physician or emergency room at hospital. If bitten, and you think the spider is venomous make sure to capture the spider and bring to hospital for correct identification. If treated, bites are rarely fatal except occasionally in small children.

The average female life span is 2 to 3 years maximum. Males live only 120 to 190 days.

These spiders are rarely found indoors. If so, normally in cluttered, seldom used areas of the garage or basement. Providing ideal harborage and web making to capture and feed on insects foraging around in undisturbed areas. Outside these spiders prefer old building structures, wood piles, hollow trees etc.

Control: Basically same standard treatment procedures as other spiders.