

Brown Recluse Spiders

QUICK STATS:



Color:

Tan to dark brown



Shape:

Round, usually with darker violin shaped marking on dorsum



Size:

$\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long



Region:

Found in the Central Midwest, from Ohio to Nebraska and south through Texas and Georgia



Brown Recluse Spiders



Loxosceles spp.

OVERVIEW:

Brown recluse spiders get their common name from their coloration and reclusive habits. They typically run for cover when disturbed.

HABITS:

Brown recluse spiders feed on small live prey such as insects. Outside, brown recluse spiders are typically found around rocks, utility boxes and woodpiles or under bark. Indoors, they can be found in any undisturbed area, such as inside boxes, among papers, in seldom-used clothing and shoes, under furniture, or in crevices such as baseboards and window moldings. Closets, attics, crawl spaces and basements are the most common hiding areas.

THREATS:

Both female and male brown recluse spiders can bite and inject venom, making them a danger to humans. The bite is usually not felt, but results in a stinging sensation followed by intense pain as long as six to eight hours later. A small blister usually develops at the bite location that can turn into an open ulcer. Restlessness, fever and difficulty sleeping are common symptoms of a brown recluse spider bite.

PREVENTION:

- Store clothing and shoes inside plastic containers, and shake out all clothing that has been in a hamper, on the floor or in storage before wearing.
- Pay special attention to items like boots, baseball mitts, skates and gloves that are used less often.
- To prevent entry into a structure, seal all internal and external cracks and crevices.
- If you suspect you have been bitten by a brown recluse spider, seek prompt medical attention.
- If you suspect you have a brown recluse spider infestation, contact a licensed pest professional.

DID YOU KNOW? Brown recluse spiders...

- always have six eyes, arranged in a semicircle, in three groups of two.
- often infest cedar shake roofs.
- spin irregular webs, which are not used for catching prey but rather as a retreat.

For more information, visit PESTWORLD.org

