

# BLACK WIDOW SPIDER INFO SHEET

## **FAST FACTS**

- There are over 35,000 species of spiders.
- Spiders live all over the world and can be found all around the United States.

## **General Information**

Female Black Widow spiders have a red hourglass shape on their backs. Males have white spots on their sides. Males only live about a year, but the female can live up to 3 years. Hungry female Black Widow spiders have been known to kill the male spider after mating, but that isn't always the case. Geographically, Black Widow spiders can be found in the Eastern, Central and Western United States.

<b>Size</b>	¾" to 3/8"	<b>Common Name</b>	Black Widow Spider
<b>Shape</b>	Round	<b>Kingdom</b>	Animalia
<b>Color</b>	Black, with characteristic red "hourglass" on back	<b>Phylum</b>	Arthropoda
<b>Legs</b>	8	<b>Class</b>	Arachnida
<b>Wings</b>	No	<b>Order</b>	Araneae
<b>Antenna</b>	No	<b>Family</b>	Theridiidae
		<b>Genus Species</b>	Lactrodectus mactans

## **Diet**

Black Widow spiders eat other pests... sometimes they even eat other spiders!

## **Habitat**

Black Widow spiders tend to live in cellars and in piles of wood or trash.

## **Impact**

The bite of a female Black Widow spider can be poisonous but not deadly to humans. The male Black Widow spider does not bite. A Black Widow spider bite is pale in the middle with a red ring around it and is followed by severe cramping, weakness, sweating, headache, anxiety, itching, nausea, vomiting, difficult breathing and increased blood pressure.

## **Preventing Black Widow spider bites**

- \* Wear heavy gloves when moving things that have been stored for a long time.
- \* Shake out your shoes before putting them on.
- \* Just to be safe, stay away from spider webs.

To learn more about this and other spiders, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/spiders.html>