

ACES Factsheet: **DIY SPIDER CONTROL**



Spiders are NOT insects they are Arachnids. They have eight legs and two body parts.

There are two types of spiders that are pests in Auckland.

1. Firstly the orb (web spinning) spiders. These typically make a mess of your house with their webs. They are harmless although sometimes large! Orb spiders are the ambush kings of the Arachnids. They like to hide in crack and crevice and ambush unsuspecting prey.

2. The second are the wandering spiders. These include wolf spiders and white tails. These spiders do not build webs but wander around looking for food and shelter. White tails predate other spiders. They tease the spider out of their hiding place and then kill them. Having orb spiders on your house will attract white tail spiders.

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT SPIDERS?

Most spiders in NZ are harmless to humans and are in fact beneficial as they eat small insects e.g. flies and cockroaches. White tails are not poisonous, however their bite may be the source of a secondary bacterial infection. White tails are confident and aggressive by their nature.

DIY SPIDER CONTROL

Firstly you need to leave the spider webs up for seven days. Why? Any spider missed in your treatment will run over its webs at night thereby getting exposed to the chemicals.

1. Source a directional spray e.g. with a nozzle. Go around and spray INTO crack and crevice where there are webs. OR if you have a puffer, puff insecticide dust into crack and crevice around webs.
2. Spray insect spray to all surfaces inside and outside house. In particular around windows, doorways and the base of the house. Choose a spray that is quick acting and long lasting
3. At seven days broom webs away. DO NOT wash them away.

WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP SPIDERS COMING BACK?

While the occasional spider may wander onto your dwelling there are few things you can do to reduce the chances of them coming back. Make sure there is a 5cm gap between foliage and your house. Stack wood and clutter away from your house. Some landscaping materials can encourage insects that spiders predate. These are river bed stones and oval rocks. Inspect your house for gaps around windows and doors, seal these up. Spiders are nocturnal so consider closing your windows at night time.

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