Spiders

Problems
Spiders are predators and feed on insects and other small animals. They can be a concern in and around the home and can cause discomfort, especially to children and pets. Many species are not poisonous, but their bites can cause significant pain and swelling. Some species can cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals.

Prevention
Preventing spiders from entering your home involves keeping your home clean and clutter-free, sealing gaps and cracks, and using spider-proofing materials like cardboard or plastic. An integrated pest management approach, which combines physical, biological, and chemical controls, can be effective in managing spider populations.

Legends
- Spiders
- Wasps
- Flies
- Mice
- Cockroaches
- Bedbugs
- Ants

Are they harmful?
Some species of spiders are venomous and can be harmful to humans, especially children and pets. It is important to identify the species present in your area to determine the level of threat. The presence of spiders may also indicate the presence of other pests, such as insects or rodents.

Following range of pests:
The Council provides information and advice on the following range of pests: Spiders, Wasps, Flies, Mice, Cockroaches, Bedbugs, Ants.
Control

It would be wrong to suggest that chemical control of spiders is necessary in most domestic premises within this country. Spiders are solitary creatures and it is not often that they are seen in large numbers in a property. A large number of spiders usually indicates that there is a good supply of food for them. Thus, by dealing with the food supply (e.g. small insects) you may help to discourage the spiders.

Spiders form an important part of the food chain. They do not carry diseases and do not cause damage to property. In fact, they are beneficial to humans, as they help to reduce other insect pests present in their vicinity.

Spiders regularly groom and clean themselves. This behaviour is also applied to their webs. If dusty or dirty cobwebs are found, it is most likely that they have been abandoned.

The best way to remove spiders is to use a cup or glass. Place the cup/glass over the spider and slide a piece of paper underneath to trap it. The spider can then be set free outside.

SPIDERS FOUND INDOORS DURING THE AUTUMN MONTHS ARE USUALLY SEEKING A COOL DARK ENVIRONMENT TO SHELTER OVER THE WINTER, TURNING UP HEATING SYSTEMS CAN DISSUADE INTRUSION AND WILL DRY UP ANY EGG BATCHES LAID WITHIN THE HOUSE HOLD. There are aerosol sprays available that are recommended for use against spiders. These may be purchased from supermarkets or DIY stores.

It is recommended that chemicals only be used as a last resort.

ANY SUSPECTED NON-NATIVE SPIDERS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES AS A PRECAUTION.

Safety

Care should always be taken when using insecticides and the manufacturer’s instructions should always be followed. Insecticides should not be placed where they may be accessible to children or animals.

Always wash hands immediately after using pesticides.

Seek professional advice from the Council’s Environmental Health Service if you require any assistance.

Warning: Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.