

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BROWN RECLUSE?

While the bite of the brown recluse spider can cause necrosis and leave severe scarring, they're very shy and typically won't unless pressed against the skin. You might already live with some; they're in more than half of Missouri homes.



Actual size

Size varies 1/4-3/4 inch



> Where they hide

In your house • Attics, basements, crawl spaces, cellars, closets, and duct work or registers. They hide in storage boxes, shoes, clothing, folded linens and behind furniture.

Outdoors • Underneath logs, loose stones in rock piles, and stacks of lumber. Also in barns, sheds and garages.

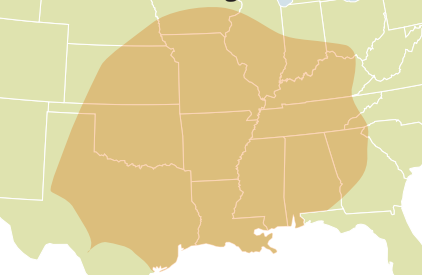
> How fast they multiply

Females lay eggs from May through July. Each female can lay several sacs with 50 or more eggs each. Spiderlings take a month to hatch and mature in one year. And adults live for one to two years.

> Webs

They spin irregular (not symmetrical) webs in dark, undisturbed corners, which serve as a daytime retreat. Unlike most spiders, the recluse comes out at night, leaving its web to hunt.

Brown recluse's range



> Controlling the recluse

Keep a tidy house, and shake out your clothes or shoes before putting them on. Move beds away from walls, and ditch the bed skirt. Make sure your doors, windows and screens are snug. Glue traps are a great, nontoxic way to control spiders.

> Identifying venomous spiders



BLACK WIDOW

(*Latrodectus mactans*) Identified by the red hourglass on its abdomen, it's found across much of the southern U.S. and as far north as New York.



HOBO

(*Tegenaria agrestis*) Shy and nonaggressive, it inhabits the Pacific Northwest, and will only bite if pressed against the skin.



BROWN RECLUSE

(*Loxosceles reclusa*) Found across much of the central and southern states, its identified by the faint violin shape on the back of its head (the segment the legs attach to). It has six eyes, rather than the usual eight.