

SPIDERS

DESCRIPTION

If corners and window ledges are filled with cobwebs, if the cobwebs are full of pear-shaped, light brown egg sacs, the culprit is usually the American house spider. Also called the common house spider or cobweb spider, it's the most common spider in structures throughout much of the United States and as far north as southern Canada. Although it belongs to the same family as the notorious black widow spider, its bite is not dangerous to humans. Besides, it rarely bites. American house spiders hang upside down in their tangled, irregular webs, surrounded by dead insects and spider egg sacs. Below the webs will be spots of dried white spider droppings. Groups of spiders can live together in overlapping webs under furniture, covering eaves, corners and window frames, and inside the empty space between screen and basement doors. Look into crawl spaces, attics, basements, closets, and sheds. American house spiders are also pests in warehouses, under bridges, and in boat houses where their droppings drive boat owner crazy.

CONTROL

Residual insecticides are used against web-spinning spiders, and can be used as a perimeter treatment outside to prevent spiders from coming indoors. Also, water based insecticides may be used indoors for treating ceiling corners, wall corners, above windows and curtains, and in closets. Large attic spaces can be fogged if they are accessible.

