

Spider prevention

Late Summer/early Autumn is the time when spiders come out looking for a mate. By the end of October they've usually all pushed off again and you don't see them. For those of us who cannot stand these critters, what's the best way to keep them at bay?



House spiders are (in the words of Douglas Adams) mostly harmless - if you discount shock as one comes charging out at you from under the tv unit - but they *are* repulsive. I'm completely phobic of spiders so over the years we have learned some neat tricks for keeping them (at least) to a minimum until their season passes.

- 1) Hoover. Lots. Hoover the corners of your room especially and also the base of floor length curtains.
- 2) Remove clutter from the floor - don't leave any little hiding places for them to lie in wait to ambush you.
- 3) Remove cobwebs. Little flies get stuck in cobwebs (even old ones) and this in turns attracts the spiders who want to eat them.
- 4) Hose down the outside of your house regularly to get rid of webs, dust and, of course, the spiders that might get in.
- 5) Spray the outside of your windows and doors down with a mixture of coconut oil and white vinegar.
- 6) Regularly wipe the inside frames down with lavender oil - neat. You can even tuck little cotton balls soaked in oil into windows that have been left ajar overnight.
- 7) If you have vent bricks in your walls, it's a good idea to cover them up until the end of the spider season. Obviously, you can't completely block them (they're there for a reason!) but we've found taping tissue paper over them is effective - keeps the spiders out

but doesn't inhibit the air flow.