



## Guide to common house spiders

### House spiders - *Tegenaria spp.*

The classic big, hairy spiders, growing to a whopping 10cm leg span! The larger, rounder females make a sheet web with a tubular retreat in undisturbed corners. The leggy adult males wander into houses in autumn patrolling for a partner. Males have obvious 'boxing glove' palp organs that they use for mating.



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### Daddy long-legs spider (*Pholcus phalangoides*)

Named after their long, thin legs and small bodies. They hang motionless in criss-cross webs, vibrating rapidly if disturbed. Females hold their egg sac in their jaws. They are specialist spider catchers, using their long legs to wrap the prey in silk from a safe distance.



### Lace weavers - *Amaurobius spp.*

Stocky spiders with a large, glossy head and velvety, oval abdomen. The abdomen is usually black with a pale splotch mark, but the extent of the colours varies. They build a sticky white mesh web with a tubular retreat in a nearby crevice. Adult males are thinner and lankier, wandering in search of females.



Lace weaver (*Amaurobius similis*)

## False widows - *Steatoda* spp.

Three false widows occupy houses, the Common false widow (*Steatoda bipunctata*), Cupboard spider (*Steatoda grossa*), and Noble false widow (*Steatoda nobilis*). All have smooth, glossy bodies with globular abdomens (though adult males are slimmer) and a short third pair of legs. They make criss-crossed webs and hide in crevices during the day.

### Common false widow (*S.bipunctata*)

The Common false widow is around 0.5cm. The round abdomen has a mostly mahogany-brown upper side, with a pale dividing line, border and underside. Some have a coffee-coloured smudge on top. The short legs are banded brown.



### Cupboard spider (*S.grossa*)

The Cupboard spider reaches 1cm long. The oval abdomen is red-brown to almost black, often with a pale line across the front. Males and some females have a row of two to three pale spots or chevrons. The head and long legs range from tan to blackish brown with very faint banding. Males have longer paler legs and a reddish head.



### Noble false widow (*S.nobilis*)

The striking Noble false widow has a blackish head and banded orange legs. The abdomen is usually black with a central white and pinkish pattern and a pale line around the front, though it may be all-black, or only have the pale front line.





### **Missing-sector orb weavers - *Zygiella* spp.**

Commonly mistaken for Noble false widows, these species have a pale-grey abdomen with a wide, grey-brown marking along the back often with a pale flash through the middle. Their legs are tan and banded and they have a dark band along the middle of the head. They spin an orb web with one section missing and rest in a silk retreat, often on window frames and doorways.



### **Bronzed tube web spider (*Segestria florentina*)**

An impressively large, black spider with metallic green fangs. They build a tube web in holes with straight trip lines radiating out, reacting quickly to any disturbance. Their bodies are narrow and the front 3 pairs of legs point forward when resting, both adaptations for moving in holes.



### **Spitting spider (*Scytodes thoracica*)**

An unusual-looking spider with a large, rounded head, oval abdomen and thin legs. Their pale tan body is covered in black spots and stripes. A nocturnal species, creeping slowly around floors and walls at night and hiding away during the day. They are named after their unique attack; shooting sticky gum from their head to immobilise prey.



### Common house comb-foot (*Theridion melanurum*)

This small, grey-brown spider has a zigzag band marking along the middle of its globular abdomen. The head is dark and the legs are highly banded. It builds a criss-cross web in corners



### Mouse spider (*Scotophaeus blackwalli*)

Named after the covering of glossy hairs on their abdomen. Mouse spiders have a narrow, tapering body and muscular legs. They are hunters, slowly prowling walls and ceilings, though they move rapidly to pounce on prey or sprint from danger.

### Jumping spiders - Salticidae

Jumping spiders are small and hairy with short legs, a large head and an enlarged front pair of eyes. They are agile visual hunters, moving jerkily on walls and ceilings and jumping between surfaces. They favour outside walls, so often venture indoors. The Common zebra spider (*Salticus scenicus*) is easily recognised by its boldly-striped abdomen. Other species are mostly patterned brown or grey.



Fleecy jumper (*Pseudeuophrys lanigera*)



Common zebra spider (*Salticus scenicus*)

Several other species may visit houses. For those you can't identify, and to submit records of species in your home contact the [British Arachnological Society](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org) with your location and a detailed photo.

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