

Healthy Colorado Schools

OCTOBER TIP OF THE MONTH: SPIDERS



Fall is the time of year for pumpkins, corn maze and spider invasions! Spiders wander into the home and other buildings accidentally as cooler temperatures send them searching for shelter. Contrary to popular belief, however, there is only one common spider to be concerned about in the Front Range of Colorado – the Black Widow. Much has been written and reported on the Brown Recluse Spider and the danger of its bite but the fact is the Brown Recluse only occurs in the Denver Metro Area when brought in from another state such as Oklahoma, Texas, etc. Most spiders are beneficial, eating insect pests. The most common ones found in the home are grass or funnel-web spiders, “cat-face” or “monkey face” spiders, so named because of their enlarged abdomens that seem to portray a “face”, jumping spiders, house spiders, and an occasional giant wolf spider that many people misidentify as a tarantula. To prevent spider invasions clean up clutter around the house and in the garage and basement, seal cracks and crevices around doors and windows, avoid storing multiple boxes in corners of rooms and if you do find a spider, just vacuum him up – remember we humans are much bigger than our 8 legged friends!

Keep Colorado schools pest free