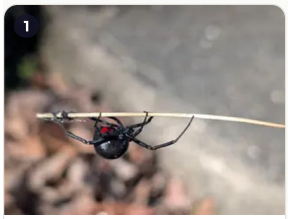
Spider Identification Chart

31 spiders with a photo, the one feature that separates each, and its size. Free to reuse with a link to orvik.app/tools/spider-identifier/

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Only two North American spiders are medically significant: widows and the brown recluse

1



Black widow

Latrodectus mactans, L. hesperus, L. variolus

CAN INJURE YOU

Glossy, almost lacquered jet-black globe of an abdomen with a red hourglass on the underside, hanging upside down in…

Size: Female body 8–13 mm

2



Brown widow

Latrodectus geometricus

HANDLE WITH CARE

Tan to grey-brown with a geometric pattern on top and an orange or yellow hourglass beneath

Size: Female body 7–12 mm

3



Brown recluse

Loxosceles reclusa

CAN INJURE YOU

Uniform tan with no leg bands, no abdominal pattern, a dark violin shape on the head plate pointing backwards, and —…

Size: Body 6–9 mm; legs span about a quarter

4



Yellow sac spider

Cheiracanthium inclusum, C. mildei

HANDLE WITH CARE

Pale straw to greenish-yellow with a slightly darker stripe down the abdomen and dark tips to the jaws, spending the…

Size: Body 5–10 mm

5



Cellar spider

Pholcus phalangioides

A tiny body on absurdly long thin legs, hanging in a loose tangle in a ceiling corner

Size: Body 7–9 mm, legs to 50 mm

6



Common house spider

Parasteatoda tepidariorum

A dull grey-brown bulbous abdomen with faint darker chevrons, in a messy tangle web in a window corner, often with…

Size: Body 5–8 mm

7



Wolf spider

Hogna, Tigrosa and Rabidosa species

Big, hairy, brown and grey with lengthwise stripes, running fast on the ground rather than sitting in a web

Size: Body 10–35 mm

8



Grass spider

Agelenopsis species

A flat horizontal sheet of dense silk in a hedge or on the lawn, with a funnel at one corner where the spider waits

Size: Body 10–20 mm

9



Hobo spider

Eratigena agrestis

A brown funnel-web spider with a herringbone of pale chevrons on the abdomen and — unlike its relatives — plain,…

Size: Body 8–15 mm

10



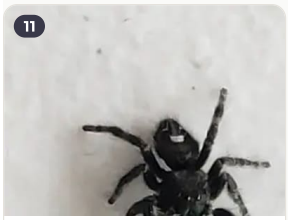
Giant house spider

Eratigena atrica

The large fast brown spider that appears in a bathtub in autumn

Size: Body 12–18 mm, leg span up to 75 mm

11



Bold jumping spider

Phidippus audax

Compact, fuzzy, black with a white or orange triangle and two spots on the abdomen, and iridescent green or blue jaws

Size: Body 8–15 mm

12



Zebra jumping spider

Salticus scenicus

A tiny black-and-white striped jumper patrolling a sunny brick wall or windowsill in short darting runs, always…

Size: Body 5–7 mm

13



Black and yellow garden spider

Argiope aurantia

Big, unmistakable, silver head and a black abdomen splashed with bright yellow, sitting head-down in the middle of a…

Size: Female body 19–28 mm

14



Banded garden spider

Argiope trifasciata

Silvery abdomen finely banded in yellow and black across its width rather than blotched, in an orb web in open…

Size: Female body 15–25 mm

15



Cross orbweaver

Araneus diadematus

Mottled brown or orange with a clear cross of white dots on the top of the abdomen, in a classic wheel web across a…

Size: Female body 10–18 mm

16



Marbled orbweaver

Araneus marmoreus

A bulbous orange or cream abdomen marbled with brown, on orange legs banded in black

Size: Female body 9–18 mm

17



Spiny-backed orbweaver

Gasteracantha cancriformis

A hard, flattened, crab-like white or yellow shell with six red or black spikes around the edge and black dots on top

Size: Body 5–9 mm wide

18



Spined micrathena

Micrathena gracilis

A tall, black-and-white, sharply spined abdomen in a small vertical orb web strung across a woodland trail at face…

Size: Body 8–11 mm

19



Orchard orbweaver

Leucauge venusta

A small, elongated, silvery-green spider with lime and yellow stripes and orange spots underneath, hanging upside…

Size: Body 5–8 mm

20



Long-jawed orbweaver

Tetragnatha species

Long, thin and stick-like with enormous jaws, resting stretched flat along a grass stem with the front legs extended…

Size: Body 6–12 mm, very elongated



Golden silk orbweaver

Trichonephila clavipes

Large, elongated orange-brown body with tufts of black hair on the legs, in a huge web whose silk is visibly golden…

`Size: Female body 24–40 mm`



Joro spider

Trichonephila clavata

Bright yellow and blue-grey banded body with red marks underneath and long black-and-yellow legs, in a very large…

`Size: Female body 17–25 mm`



Green lynx spider

Peucetia viridans

Vivid translucent green with long spiny legs and a pointed abdomen, sitting motionless on a flower head waiting to…

`Size: Body 12–22 mm`



Goldenrod crab spider

Misumena vatia

Crab-shaped, holding its long front legs open sideways, sitting inside a flower

`Size: Female body 6–10 mm`



Six-spotted fishing spider

Dolomedes triton

A big grey-brown spider with white side stripes standing on the surface film of still water, legs spread wide

`Size: Body 9–20 mm`



Dark fishing spider

Dolomedes tenebrosus

Very large, mottled brown with dark W-shaped chevrons on the abdomen and banded legs, flattened against a tree trunk,…

`Size: Body 15–26 mm, leg span up to 90 mm`



Texas brown tarantula

Aphonopelma hentzi

A genuinely large, uniformly dark brown, densely hairy spider living in a silk-lined burrow

`Size: Body 40–55 mm, leg span up to 110 mm`



Trapdoor spider

Ummidia species

A glossy, almost bald, dark chocolate spider with a shovel-shaped head, found only when the hinged soil-covered lid…

`Size: Body 12–28 mm`



Woodlouse hunter

Dysdera crocata

A shiny red-orange head and legs with a pale grey-pink abdomen, and jaws so long and forward-projecting they look…

`Size: Body 9–15 mm`



Parson spider

Herpyllus ecclesiasticus

Flat, velvety black-grey with a single white stripe down the abdomen that breaks into a comma at the rear — the shape…

`Size: Body 8–13 mm`



Southern house spider

Kukulcania hibernalis

The female is a stout velvety charcoal spider living in a crevice with radiating tangled silk around the opening

`Size: Female body 13–19 mm`

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2. Brown widow — Dan Lee, CC0, GBIF
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