



# SPIDERS ON THE DOCK

A GUIDE TO PROTECTING YOUR  
LAKE HOUSE IN MID-MISSOURI

Steve's Pest Control

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When it's summer time, the weather is warm and the kids are ready to run off the dock and splash straight into the lake, creepy crawlers are the last thing on your mind! Our guide to spiders on the dock is here to help you protect your lake house from spiders and other pests. Steve's Pest Control is here to help you review common Missouri spiders, where to find them and how to prevent them from living on your property.

We know nobody wants spiders crawling all over their guests when enjoying lake time! With the newest technology and expert exterminators, we work to quickly and safely remove common Missouri spiders from your home and lake property. Explore our 5 Star Lake Services to learn more about our spider and pest removal services. If you are concerned about pests overrunning your property, call Steve's Pest Control today to schedule an appointment!

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# Spider Basics

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## Most Common Missouri Spiders

The state of Missouri has more than 470 individual species of spiders. However, there are a few common ones that tend to crawl along your patios, decks, and homes throughout the summer months. The most common spiders in Missouri are: common house spiders, cellar spiders, black and yellow garden spiders, wolf spiders, and brown recluses.

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### Common House Spiders

Also known as the American house spider, the *Parasteatoda tepidariorum* is about 6 mm with a rounded abdomen. Easily identified by its bulbous abdomen, the American house spider places webs in high corners of your home, patio and boat docks. These pesky spiders are more of a nuisance than they are dangerous. Frequently remove their spider webs and keep the interior of your home well ventilated if you wish to prevent them from being near your home.

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### Cellar Spiders

Also known as the daddy long leg, the *Pholcus phalangioides* has a tiny body and long protruding legs. It loves moisture and can be found in damp, dark areas such as interiors of boats, roofed boat docks or under patios. While they may be a nuisance, this spider helps kill ants and other small pests.

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### Black and Yellow Garden Spider

Found in gardens and near homes, the black and yellow garden spider is approximately one inch in size not including legs. Almost completely harmless, the *Argiope aurantia* tends to be spotted in the late summer months.

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### Wolf Spiders

Agile, robust creatures, wolf spiders are a part of the *Lycosidae* family. With excellent eyesight and “hair” like characteristics, the wolf spider does not spin webs but instead lives in dark holes or close quarters. If you are digging in a box that has been stored in a dark area, outdoors, or in an attic, you are likely to come across one of these creatures. Although their bites are not poisonous to humans, it will cause uncomfortable symptoms. Caution is advised when cleaning docks, patios and other dark areas that have gone untouched for a while.

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### Brown Recluse

Ranging in size from ¼ inch to 2 inches in total leg span, these spiders prefer to be secluded from humans but will appear in common areas when things are quiet. Tan to dark brown, with a distinctive dark violin shape behind their head, Brown Recluse bites are venomous and can become infected if left untreated. When entering attics or reopening your patio and docks after the winter months, caution is advised. These spiders will often find their way into small crevices and common areas to seek warmth during the winter months then emerge just as you return to your lake house in the spring and summer months.



## What Attracts Spiders?

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Do you consistently find spiders on or near the exterior of your home and boat dock in the spring to late summer? Just like humans, spiders emerge after a long winter ready for nicer weather. Concerned about two factors, food and shelter, spiders emerge after hibernating and find themselves searching for insects. It just happens to be that insects tend to congregate near water sources, like your boat dock or patio overlooking the lake.

You may be wondering, how can I remove spiders if they are attracted to the water I love too? Although they are attracted to the insects that surround the lake, spiders prefer to reside in more compact spaces. Keeping your land maintained and patio well cleaned will help prevent spiders from taking up homes on your property. Decluttering your dock, patio and yard will help prevent spiders from congregating on your property this lake season.

## Life Cycle

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The majority of Missouri spiders rarely live longer than a year, however there are some that can live up to two to three years. Spiders that live longer than one year will hibernate during the winter months under tree bark, rocks, in holes, or inside your cellars, attics and patios. Spiders are agile and will find any place to hibernate that protects them from the elements during the winter months. However many die within one warm season and leave spiderlings or encased eggs to emerge in the spring. The egg sacs are often burrowed under rocks or, in holes or are attached to other areas where they won't be disturbed. The wolf spider, however, carries the nursery of eggs with them.

Once spring emerges, the young spiders climb to elevated surfaces and throw out silken threads known as ballooning. The air currents catch the

threads and carry the young spiders away from the rocks and holes they originally hibernated in. Following the ballooning period, the spider lands and travels to the areas that best suit their species. This entails damp, dark places for cellar spiders, and close quarters for wolf spiders.

Are you finding your boat dock or patio are covered in webs and spiders in the later summer months? Right before fall, spiders emerge from their homes looking for mates. While the majority of the year you may not encounter many spiders due to their reclusive nature, during the late summer to fall they will risk encounters to find a mate. If you are concerned about spiders residing on your property and repopulating during these months contact the expert exterminators at Steve's Pest Control.

# Common Areas to Find Brown Recluses & Other Spiders

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Attracted to small crevices and undisturbed areas, spiders may find themselves taking shelter in your lake house during the winter months. Before opening your home to guests for fun in the summer, be sure to thoroughly clean and inspect the interior and exterior of your lake house. No one wants to start their summer off with an annoying or poisonous spider bite. Check the following areas for spiders when you are spring cleaning!

## Outdoors

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- Beneath rocks
- Piles of lumber or debris
- Utility and water toy boxes
- Under tree bark
- Storage sheds
- Under porches
- Cedar roofs
- Suspended dock overhangings
- Small holes in your patio or dock

## Indoors

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- Clothing and shoes
- Underneath tables and chairs
- Baseboard crevices
- Door and window moldings
- Storage areas
- Voids above suspended ceilings
- Closets
- Garages and attics
- Crawl spaces

Whether you place your lifejackets and other toys in an outdoor storage box or in the basement, spiders can find their way into any small space. We understand that summer excitement can make you want to hastily grab your lifejackets and hit the lake! However, be careful when opening boxes and other storage areas that have been left undisturbed for a period of time. Spiders do not mean to harm you, but if they have taken up residence on your water toys, lifejackets or other lake necessities, you might have a rude awakening after disrupting their environment.



# Prevention Tips

Unlike other pests, spiders aren't concerned with humans, but instead are attracted to other pests and finding shelter. Becoming more active in later summer due to mating season, you may find your docks, patio and the exterior of your home to be overrun with spiders if you don't prepare. Follow our prevention tips to ensure you don't have to worry about 8 legged creatures crawling all over your family and friends this lake season!

## Spring Cleaning and Additional Tips

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If your lake house isn't your primary home, you may return in the summer ready to enjoy the sun and time with friends and be saddened by the amount of bugs that accumulated over the winter months. When reopening your home for the summer, follow our cleaning tips to help prevent spiders. While this list will not ensure the total elimination of spiders, it can reduce the number you come into contact with.

- Trim excessive brush and trees near your dock and property.
- Remove clutter piles near the dock and in your yard.
- Seal storage boxes on your deck or patio.
- Remove webs below the dock and above in overhangings.

To ensure no spiders take up residence on your property, you will want to clean monthly and even weekly during mating season. At the end of summer into fall, spiders begin looking for a mate and often emerge from the many hiding spots they have taken up on your property. Contact an experienced exterminator to learn more about spider removal for your boat dock and lake house.

## Be Wary

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If you are returning to your lake house after weeks or months away, be wary of spiders having found their way onto your dock or patio. While you may have thought you cleared out all spiders at the beginning of summer, you may be surprised to find them living near your property once again. The majority of spiders emerge at the end of summer in search of a mate. Check our common areas to find spiders to be sure no spiders go unnoticed!

## Thorough Inspections

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If you are concerned about spiders on your boat dock or property, inspect for other pests first. Spiders are attracted to other pests such as mosquitos, flies, ants, moths and other smaller insects. With lake property being so close to water and wilderness, preventing insects may seem difficult. Hiring an experienced exterminator team can help you to prevent pests near your property, resulting in less spiders.



# Removal Process

**With Steve's Pest Control, you won't have to worry about our team disrupting your vacation time during the extermination process. Our treatment is nontoxic and uses a variation of residual sprays and dust in spider "hot spots" to ensure no pest is left behind. Following up 2-5 months after the initial treatment is recommended to eliminate any creepy crawlers that escaped the first time. If you are concerned about the removal process and preparing your home, call our team today! We will gladly talk you through our process and why it works!**

Through short term and long term processes, our team of expert exterminators have something for every lake house! Whether you only have spiders in the late summer months or throughout the entire year, explore our various removal processes to determine what is the best solution for your home.

## **Short Term:**

- Perform a thorough inspection of your home's interior and exterior to determine the type of pests.
- Treat your home's interior, exterior, attic and all crawl spaces. If your boat dock is covered in spider webs, our team will also inspect and treat this area.
- For the most effective treatment, follow the initial

treatment with 2-5 months of inspections and removal services.

## **Long Term:**

- Similar to the short term treatment, begin with an inspection to determine the types of pests and where they reside.
- Treat the interior, exterior, porch and boat dock for spiders.
- Perform services monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly or participate in the 5 star service program. The long term option ensures our team maintains control and eliminates spiders and additional pests.

# FAQ'S

## **How can I reduce my chances of spider bites?**

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The majority of Missouri spiders are non-aggressive and tend to reside in undisturbed areas such as basements, storage units and exterior patios. One of the easiest ways to reduce your chances of spider bites is by cleaning regularly. Consistent vacuuming, sweeping, and cleaning of closets, storage units and other exterior bins can reduce spiders.

## **What is the best way to handle a brown recluse spider infestation?**

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A common misunderstanding when removing insects and spiders is that you can exterminate them in the same way. Due to spiders not cleaning themselves like insects, or ingesting the pesticide, spiders are more difficult to eradicate. The brown recluse, a common Missouri spider, is one of the most difficult to eliminate due to them not building webs like other spiders. If you are concerned about your home (interior or exterior) being overrun with brown recluses or other spiders, contact an expert to remove them. Hiring an expert exterminator not only ensures you are using the proper tools to remove spiders, but prevents you from spraying harmful chemicals that could cause damage to your home, plants and most importantly loved ones.

## **What is the timeline for spider removal?**

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Here at Steve's Pest Control we don't rush through pest removal. With a detailed and precise approach, our team of expert exterminators works hard to remove your pests for good. After the initial call, our team will perform a thorough inspection and initial treatment to your home's exterior, interior, attic and any additional crawlspaces. Our treatment uses a combination of residual sprays and dusts to eradicate your spiders.

For the most effective control we suggest following the initial treatment with 2 to 5 months of continuous service. Explore our 5 Star Services for details on monthly, bi-monthly and annual services to remove spiders from your lake house or dock.

## **How do I control spiders on my boat dock?**

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Spiders are simple creatures looking for food and shelter. Due to the number of insects attracted to water, you often find spiders migrating towards these areas as well. While the majority of Missouri spiders are not harmful, their presence can be a nuisance when trying to enjoy your summer lake house. Prevent spiders by removing insects from the exterior of your home, patio and boat dock. In addition, clean out any exterior bins, cabinets and close encounters where spiders may be residing. If you continually find spiders invading your space, contact our expert exterminators. You may find you need additional services to remove spiders from your lake house and property.



# Steve's 5 Star Lake Services

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Our team wants to ensure you and your family can enjoy your time at the lake this spring and summer. You shouldn't have to worry about the pesky spiders and pests that find their way onto your property. By focusing treatment on the exterior of your home, Steve's Pest Control's Lake Services ensures you, your family and your property are protected.

We work hard to stop pests before they have the chance to overrun your home, dock or patio. Depending on the service you choose, we give a 30 day to a year round unlimited retreatment warranty for "covered pests" at no additional cost. Explore the benefits of Steve's Lake Service below and give our team a call to get started!

## Explanation And Benefits Of Steve's Lake Services:

- Initial treatment for the year includes the interior (unless denied)
- All treatments are performed on the exterior of house, grounds and dock (if present)
- Spider webs and insect nests are removed (within reach) on each service if present
- Pests are eliminated on the exterior before they enter the structure
- Safer and more effective than continuous interior treatments
- Easy hassle-free scheduling

- \$250,000 Termite Damage Warranty with The Sentricon System (if installed)
- Unlimited Retreatment Warranty with 7 or more consecutive monthly services

## Our Guarantee/Warranty

Here at Steve's Pest Control we believe in our services and strive to provide the best services to our clients, whether it be a residential or commercial project.

Explore our official guarantees and warranties:

- Commercial Service Unlimited Re-Treatment Warranty
- General Pest Unlimited Re-Treatment Warranty
- One Time "As-Needed" Service
- Bed Bug Heat Treatment Warranty
- Lifetime Termite Protection with The Sentricon System
- \$250,000.00 Termite Damage Warranty
- Termite Re-Treatment Warranty

*For more information explore [stevespestcontrol.com/our-guarantee-warranty/](http://stevespestcontrol.com/our-guarantee-warranty/) or call our expert exterminators in Missouri. Serving cities and counties all across Missouri, you can trust the experts at Steve's Pest Control to be here for you when you need it!*



# Contact Our Professional Exterminators

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The experts at Steve's Pest Control have been eliminating spiders and other mid-Missouri pests since 1988. With state-of-the-art technology, we eliminate your pest problem quickly. If you find spiders have over run your lake house, dock or patio in mid-Missouri, call us today at (573) 365-9555. Our 5 Star Lake Services will not only remove unwanted spiders, but also other insects that attract spiders. Contact us for more information or to schedule a free pest evaluation.

## **Steve Hotsenpillar** Co-Owner & President

Owner and President of Steve's Pest Control, Steve Hotsenpillar, has 35 years of experience. Overseeing the entire operation of Steve's Pest Control, he is a State Certified Commercial Operator, Certified Sentricon Specialist, Certified Inspector, Service Advisor, and Bed Bug Specialist.

## **Jared Hotsenpillar** Co-Owner

With 11 years of field experience, Jared is co-owner of Steve's Pest Control. In charge of the entire bed bug remediation service division, he oversees 3 service crews, all equipment and supplies and all jobs. As a State Certified Commercial Operator, a Certified Sentricon Specialist, Certified Inspector, Service Advisor and Bed Bug Specialist, Jared is committed to satisfying his clients.

**Steve's Pest Control, Inc.**  
Professional Pest and Termite Elimination Services

