

Black Widow Spider Encounters Raise Concerns Across Hampton Roads Following Virginia Beach Garage Discovery

Black widow spider found behind dog food in a Virginia Beach garage raises awareness of venomous spiders hiding in homes across Hampton Roads.

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, UNITED STATES, October 26, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Venomous spider found hiding behind a bag of dog food in Little Neck neighborhood highlights potential risks for local homeowners.



Black widow Spider hiding behind bag of dog food.

[Black widow](#) spider encounters are raising concerns across Hampton Roads as residents discover these venomous [spiders](#) in garages, sheds, crawl spaces, and other sheltered areas around their homes.

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The discovery of a black widow behind a bag of dog food in a Virginia Beach garage highlights how these venomous spiders can hide in everyday household spaces.”

Tanner Baine

A recent discovery in the Little Neck section of [Virginia Beach](#) highlights how easily black widow spiders can go unnoticed in places families use every day.

The spider was discovered hiding behind a bag of dog food inside a residential garage, an area where homeowners regularly retrieve supplies, store equipment, and care for household pets.

BLACK WIDOW FOUND IN VIRGINIA BEACH GARAGE

The Little Neck incident illustrates a common characteristic of black widow spiders: their preference for dark, secluded, and relatively undisturbed environments.

Garages offer numerous potential hiding places, including behind pet food bags, beneath

shelving, inside cardboard boxes, and around stored lawn equipment.

Female black widows are generally recognizable by their glossy black bodies and distinctive red hourglass marking underneath their abdomens.

Although these spiders typically avoid human contact, they can bite when accidentally disturbed or trapped against the skin.

HAMPTON ROADS NEIGHBORHOODS PROVIDE FAVORABLE HABITAT

Black widow spiders are established throughout southeastern Virginia, where coastal temperatures, humidity, and abundant insect populations support their survival.

In Virginia Beach, neighborhoods including Little Neck, Great Neck, Kings Grant, Thoroughgood, Alanton, Kempsville, and the North End contain mature landscaping, wooded property boundaries, and residential storage areas that can provide suitable spider habitats.

Similar conditions exist in Chesapeake communities such as Great Bridge, Greenbrier, Hickory, Deep Creek, and Western Branch.

Norfolk neighborhoods including Ghent, Larchmont, Ocean View, and Lafayette also feature older garages, sheds, crawl spaces, and other protected locations where spiders may establish webs.

Across the Peninsula, homeowners in Hampton, Newport News, York County, and Williamsburg may encounter black widows around woodpiles, detached buildings, outdoor furniture, and landscaping materials.



Black Widow - Brown Recluse Spider



Effective Pest Control

WHY HOMEOWNERS MAY NOTICE MORE SPIDERS DURING FALL

As temperatures fluctuate across Hampton Roads during October and November, homeowners often begin cleaning garages, retrieving holiday decorations, and reorganizing outdoor storage areas.

These activities can expose spiders that have remained hidden for months.

Black widows generally prefer protected locations and construct irregular, tangled webs near the ground.

Unlike some household pests, black widows do not typically enter homes in large numbers seeking warmth. Instead, they remain in sheltered locations where insects are available.

HOW DANGEROUS IS A BLACK WIDOW BITE?

Black widow spiders are among Virginia's most medically significant spiders.

Their venom affects the nervous system and can produce symptoms including severe muscle cramps, abdominal pain, sweating, nausea, and localized discomfort.

Although fatalities are extremely rare, bites can require medical attention, particularly for children, older adults, and individuals with underlying medical conditions.

Anyone who suspects a black widow bite should contact a healthcare professional or Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222. Severe symptoms require emergency medical attention.

FIVE AREAS HOMEOWNERS SHOULD INSPECT CAREFULLY

1. Garages: Behind stored pet food, cardboard boxes, shelving, and lawn equipment.
2. Crawl spaces: Around foundation walls, vents, utility openings, and undisturbed corners.
3. Outdoor sheds: Beneath workbenches and behind gardening supplies.
4. Decks and patios: Underneath outdoor furniture, planters, and sheltered structures.
5. Woodpiles: Between stacked firewood and around landscaping debris.

Residents should wear protective gloves when handling stored materials, avoid reaching blindly into concealed spaces, and exercise caution around suspected spider webs.

IS HAMPTON ROADS EXPERIENCING A BLACK WIDOW INFLUX?

Although local discoveries have generated concern, there is currently insufficient verified regional data to establish whether black widow populations are increasing throughout Hampton

Roads.

However, encounters such as the Little Neck garage discovery demonstrate that these spiders remain an important residential pest concern across southeastern Virginia.

AWARENESS IS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

The discovery of a black widow behind an ordinary bag of dog food serves as a reminder that potentially dangerous spiders are not confined to wooded areas or remote locations.

They can establish themselves just steps away from living spaces, sometimes in areas used daily by children, adults, and pets.

As homeowners throughout Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Hampton, Newport News, and Williamsburg prepare for cooler weather, understanding where black widows hide can help reduce accidental encounters.

SOURCE CREDIT

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Local black widow discovery information and pest management observations provided by Universal Pest & Termite.

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