



CHILDS

PEST SERVICES PTY LTD

Friendly & reliable pest control



Pest News

www.childspestservices.com.au

Spring / Summer 2009

Hello & welcome to our latest newsletter!



Well the weather is finally starting to warm up, and the bugs are starting to appear everywhere.

One of the biggest fears most homeowners have is spiders... and just so you know—Glenn & I are no different, we don't like them either!

The Redback spider is easily the most recognisable, so I have included in this issue some facts and useful information.

So if you are starting to see spiders appearing around your home or want to protect your family from spiders over these warmer months, why not book a treatment with us today!

The old song Redback on the toilet seat may not be relevant to us in this day and age; however spare a thought for our grandparents and generations past who only had an outdoor loo.

Kind regards *Sandy & Glenn Childs*

The new "pest truck"

Well thanks to the government's stimulus package, we decided that it was time to upgrade our pest truck this year, so you may have seen Glenn driving around lately in our new vehicle.

We had the guys from Coldy's fit out the back with a customised tray and tool box, and we let Rich from Arden Photographics use his creativity to design the new signage.

Thanks guys, we are thrilled with the finished product.



Arden Photographics

Glenn reckons that it fits his gear in better and like all boys with new toys, he is as pleased as punch and just quietly... I love it too!

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Lurking around homes this spring & summer

Redback spiders

The Redback spider is one of Australia's most recognisable species and they are commonly found in habitats ranging from bushland to urban areas.

Redback spiders, *Latrodectus hasselti*, are almost too familiar to need description. Mature female Redback are jet black spiders with a variable red stripe on the back of their spherical abdomen. Immature females are smaller, usually brown with whitish markings.

Their tough, untidy webs are usually near the ground with the spider hiding in a shelter tucked in a corner, often guarding her round woolly egg sacs. Male Redback spiders are rarely seen. They are small and brown with red and white markings.



Redback spiders are found throughout Australia, in drier habitats and built-up areas. They are common in dry places around buildings, outdoor furniture, machinery and stacked materials. In the bush, Redback spiders nest under logs and rocks. There is some evidence to suggest that Redback are not native to Australia.

"Redback spider bites usually occur when part of the body comes in direct contact with the spider or its web"

Life history

Redback spiders feed mainly on ground-living insects that blunder into their webs, but small vertebrates such as lizards and even mice can fall victim. Also eaten - after mating - are the tiny male Redback.

A female Redback spider can produce eggs for up to two years after a single mating. Eggs are enclosed in 3-5 dirty-white, woolly, spherical egg sacs suspended in the retreat of the web and guarded by the female. Spiderlings emerge after about 14 days and disperse on the wind as soon as conditions are right. This is how Redback spiders turn up in new places or quickly recolonise areas from which they have previously been removed.

Pest status and management

Redback spiders are not aggressive, and rarely leave the web. However caution is advised as their bite is very poisonous and potentially fatal for children or the elderly.

After a bite, the onset of pain may be delayed for five minutes then increase in intensity. Subsequent symptoms vary but have included:

- nausea
- vomiting
- abdominal or generalised pain
- sweating
- restlessness
- palpitations
- weakness
- muscle spasm
- fever.

Anyone bitten by a Redback spider should seek medical attention. Do not bandage the bite but apply iced water and take simple painkillers. An antivenin is available and very effective.

Manage Redback spiders by learning to recognise their webs and the kinds of places they live. Always take care when gardening or moving objects where Redback spiders might be hiding.