



Utah Poison Control Center

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Got a Spider Bite? Don't Panic - Call the Utah Poison Control Center

Spiders are more prevalent indoors during late summer and fall as nighttime temperatures begin to drop. All spiders can bite, although they rarely cause serious problems. Not every spider bite warrants a trip to the emergency department. Black widow spider bites are of particular concern. The black widow can cause muscle cramps, severe abdominal pain, and weakness. In 2013, 29 (46%) of the 63 black widow spider bite calls to the Utah Poison Control Center were treated in a health care facility and nearly 70% of those cases were treated and released from the emergency department. There are other medically important spiders in Utah including the Hobo spider that occasionally produces local tissue injury and the tarantula that can cause a skin reaction.

Prevention measures are the best deterrent. Install tight-fitting screens on doors and windows and seal building cracks where spiders enter the house. Vacuum thoroughly to remove spider webs. Eliminate potential hiding places such as undisturbed cluttered areas indoors and piles of lumber and rubble outdoors. Do not store firewood against the house.

If you suspect someone is bitten by a spider, call the Utah Poison Control Center for immediate assistance. Specially trained nurses and pharmacists are available around the clock to help you.

About the Utah Poison Control Center

The Utah Poison Control Center was established in 1954. It was one of the first poison centers in the United States. The UPCC is a program of the University of Utah, College of Pharmacy; staffed around-the-clock with pharmacists and nurses with additional training in clinical toxicology.

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