

ToolBox Talk 191

FALSE WIDOW SPIDER FACTS

A school has been closed because of a venomous false widow spider, and experts say they are on the increase.

- Sightings of *Steatoda nobilis*, the false widow spider, are on the rise. It is being cited as Britain's most venomous spider, and it is spreading.
- Experts say the species is not usually aggressive towards humans and that being bitten is rare.
- The false widow is believed to have arrived in Britain in crates of fruit from the Canary Islands.
- The symptoms of a bite range from feelings of numbness, severe swelling and discomfort, to various levels of burning or chest pains.
- There have been no reported deaths from its bite in the UK.
- If you suspect that you have been bitten by a False Widow spider seek medical advice as soon as possible.

