

## FIRST AID FACT SHEET

# Red-Back Spider Bite

A Red-Back spider bite can be life threatening to a child, but apart from the pain it is rarely serious for an adult.

They are common in dry places around buildings, outdoor furniture, machinery and stacked materials. In the bush, they nest under logs and rocks.

### Caused by

- + Spider biting and puncturing the skin.

### Signs & symptoms

- + Immediate pain at the bite site which becomes hot, red and swollen.
- + Intense local pain which increases and spreads.
- + Nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.
- + Profuse sweating, especially at the bite site.
- + Swelling of glands in the groin or armpit of the limb that was bitten.

### What to do

1. Follow DRSABCD St John Action Plan.
2. Lay the casualty down, rest and reassure.
3. Monitor the casualty constantly.
4. Apply a cold compress/cold pack to lessen the pain (no longer than twenty (20) minutes).
5. Seek medical aid promptly if:
  - + Casualty is a young child, elderly or infirmed.
  - + The casualty collapses.
  - + Pain is severe.



In a medical emergency  
call **Triple Zero (000)**

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