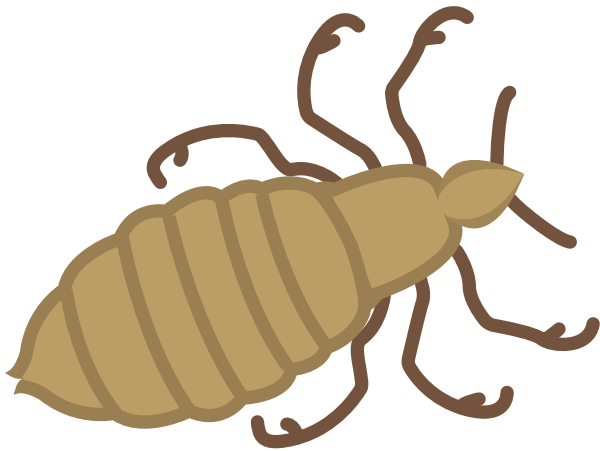




HEAD LICE



How are head lice spread?

Head lice move by crawling (they cannot hop or fly), so they are spread by direct contact with the hair of a person who has lice. Sometimes they can spread by sharing clothing or belongings that lice have crawled onto or hairs have fallen onto.

Head lice do not spread disease.

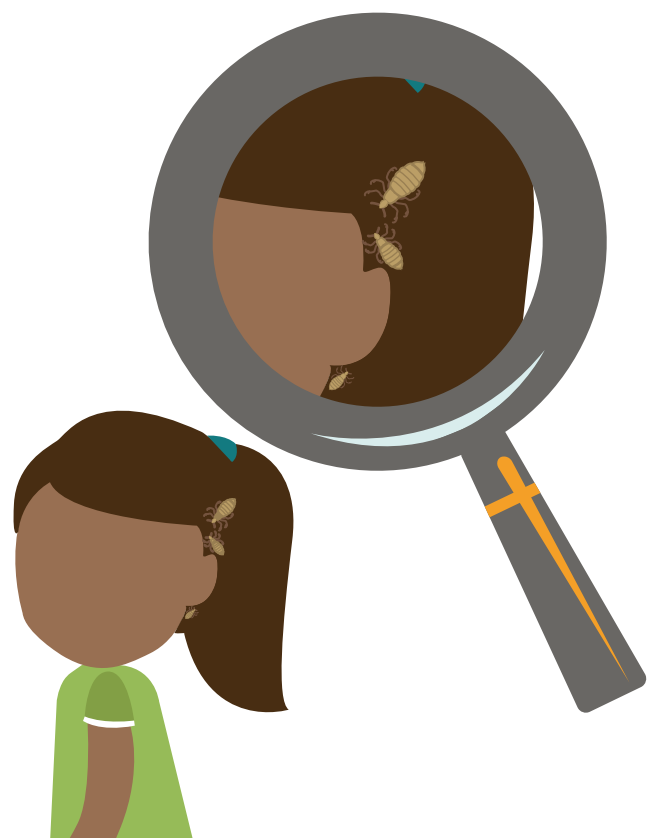
Finding head lice on a child can be stressful, but it's a nuisance many families face. Getting head lice has **nothing** to do with how clean a person or their home is.

Head lice is most common among children attending child care, elementary schoolchildren, and people living with someone who has lice. But they can spread to anyone who has head-to-head contact with someone who has head lice.

How do I check for head lice?

Look for crawling tan insects or tiny eggs cemented to hair:

- On the scalp, especially at the nape of the neck
- Behind and around the ears



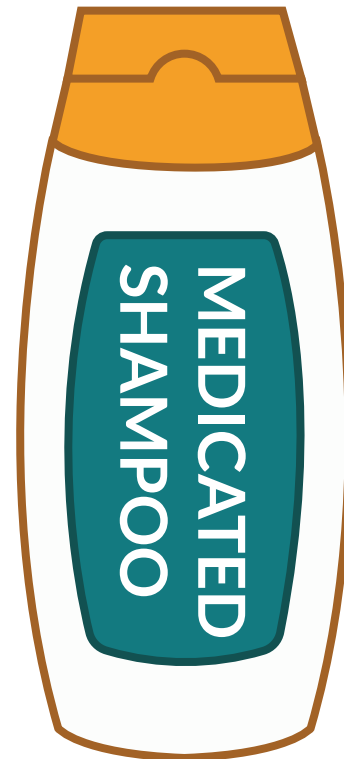
HEAD LICE (cont.)

How do I treat head lice?

First, treat the child's head using an over-the-counter or prescription medication.

Next, take steps to make sure head lice are removed from your home:

- Machine wash and dry clothing, bed linens, and other items that the child wore or used during the two days before treatment
 - Use the hot water (130°F) laundry cycle and the high heat drying cycle.
 - Clothing and items that are not washable can be dry cleaned or sealed in a plastic bag for two weeks.
- Soak combs and brushes in hot water (at least 130°F) for 5-10 minutes.
- Vacuum the floor and furniture, particularly where the child sat or laid.
- Do not use fumigant sprays. They can be toxic if inhaled or absorbed through the skin.



How do I prevent head lice?

- Avoid hair-to-hair contact when playing and during other activities at home and school (summer camp, sports activities, slumber parties).
- Do not share hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, or hair accessories.
- Do not share combs, brushes or towels.
- Check head regularly for lice and eggs.

Head lice do not survive long if they fall off a person and cannot feed, and the risk of getting head lice from a rug, carpet or furniture is very small.

So don't spend a lot of time or money on housecleaning activities!

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office 564.397.2322 / 711 or 800.833.6388 / ADA@clark.wa.gov

Learn more about head lice: www.cdc.gov/lice/about/head-lice.html