

How To Treat Head Lice

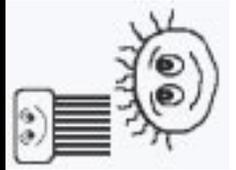
Contact your private physician or local county health department for information on the treatment of head lice.



1. Purchase a lice treatment from your local pharmacy.
2. Remove clothing and have child lean over a sink. Provide a towel to cover eyes and face.
3. Apply shampoo to **dry** hair according to the instructions on the box. Be sure to leave the treatment on the hair for the right length of time. After treatment, wash with regular shampoo.
4. While hair is wet, use a nit removal comb to comb through 1 inch sections of hair. Start against the scalp and comb to the end of the hair. Rinse the hair and scalp when completed.
5. After hair is dry, recheck entire head for stray nits. Remove any remaining nits.
6. Put on clean clothing.
7. Examine all family members and treat other infested persons at the same time. Do NOT dilute shampoo with water.
8. Washable clothing, coats, hats, bedding and towels that have had contact to an infested person should be washed or dried on a hot cycle. Dry cleaning is acceptable.
9. Combs and brushes should be washed in lice shampoo or hot (130°F) water for 5-10 minutes.
10. Vacuum house, furniture, car upholstery, and car seats thoroughly. Vacuum or wash pillows and stuffed animals.
11. Repeat (steps 2 through 10) in 7 to 10 days.
12. Lice treatments are **NOT 100% effective!** Nit removal is important to prevent reinfestation of the person and to prevent the spread of lice to other members of the family.



Pediculicides Available in the United States	Brand Name	Lice Killing Time	Application Time	% of Nits Killed
Permethrin	Nix	10-15 Minutes	10 Minutes	70-80%
Pyrethrum/Pyrethrin	A-200, RID, R&C, Clear	10-23 Minutes	10 Minutes	70-80%
Lindane	Generic forms	140-230 Minutes	4 Minutes	45-70%
Malathion	Ovide	5-10 Minutes	8-12 Hours	95%



NOTE: Use of brand names is for identification purposes only and does not constitute endorsement by the Oklahoma State Department of Health. There may be other brand names on the market which are not listed due to space constraints.
 Consult with health care provider regarding use of these products on children under 2 years of age, pregnant, or nursing women.
 The Oklahoma State Department of Health recommends mechanical removal of lice as an alternative to a chemical treatment regimen.
 Manually removing lice and their nits prevents the side effects to health caused by most chemical treatment programs.

