

Sometimes, the treatments will make the scalp itchy. If your child is scratching after treatment, it does not necessarily mean the lice are back. You need to find live lice to make this diagnosis.

SHOULD THE HOUSE BE DISINFECTED IF SOMEONE HAS HEAD LICE?

Since the head lice don't like to live long off the scalp and since the eggs are not likely to hatch at room temperature, you do not need to do excessive cleaning.

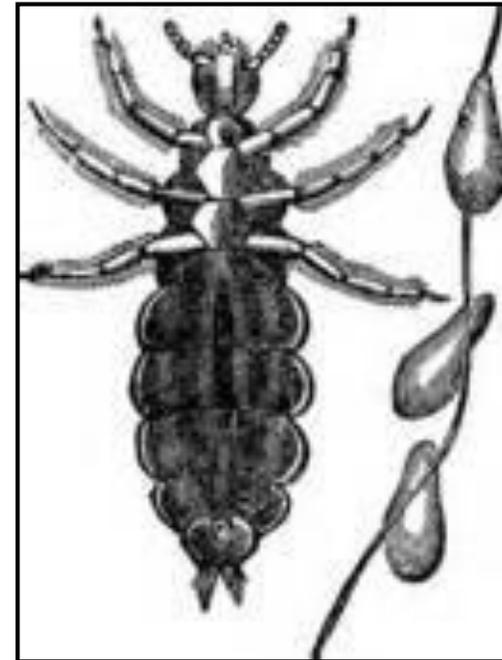
If you want to get rid of lice or nits from specific items, like hats or pillowcases, either wash the items in hot water (66c) and dry in a hot dryer for 15 minutes or store the items in an airtight plastic container for 2 weeks.

REMEMBER

HEAD LICE DO NOT SPREAD DISEASE

CHILDREN WITH HEAD LICE SHOULD BE TREATED AND SHOULD AVOID HEAD TO HEAD CONTACT WITH OTHER CHILDREN UNTIL THE LICE ARE GONE

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR ME



IF YOUR CHILD HAS GOT HEADLICE, THE WHOLE FAMILY SHOULD BE CHECKED AND TREATED AS A PRECAUTION. ONLY SEND YOUR CHILD BACK TO SCHOOL ONCE HE/SHE HAS BEEN TREATED. KEEP LONG HAIR TIED BACK TO HELP PREVENT INFESTATION.

[NHS Headlice](#)

HEAD LICE

Head lice are tiny insects that live on the scalp. They lay eggs, called nits, which stick to hair very close to the scalp. Head lice do not spread disease. Having head lice does not mean you are not clean.

Head lice are very common among young children especially in schools. Head lice spread easily among children who are together in one place.

HOW ARE HEAD LICE SPREAD?

Head lice spread through direct contact among children or in-directly on items such as hats, combs, hairbrushes and head phones. They don't fly or hop, but they can crawl very quickly.

Although head lice often make the scalp itchy, it is possible to have them without any symptoms.

Head lice can't live on pets.

Head lice can live up to 3 days off the scalp. Although the eggs can also survive for up to 3 days, they need a warm environment to develop. They are not likely to hatch at room temperature.

HOW CAN PARENTS TELL IF THEIR CHILD HAS HEAD LICE?

To diagnose a case of head lice, you need to find live lice. On average children with head lice will have no more than 10 to 20 live lice. They move fast and are only about the size of a sesame seed so they can be hard to find.

Finding nits (eggs) close to the scalp suggest that there may be a case of head lice. A child can have a few nits without actually having a case of head lice.

WHERE TO LOOK

Close to the scalp
Behind the ears
The back of the neck
Top of the head

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

One of the first signs of head lice is itching and scratching the head. Still, it's possible to have head lice without any symptoms.

Adult lice, which are 2.4mm long are hard to see.

The nits are easier to see. Nits are greyish white and oval shaped.

Nits are firmly attached to the hair close to the scalp. They may look like dandruff.

HOW TO CHECK

Good lighting is important. Look for nits by parting hair in small sections, going from one side of the head to the other. Check carefully, looking close to the scalp.

HOW CAN HEAD LICE BE TREATED?

There are a number of very effective treatments for head lice. All the treatments contain an insecticide that kills the lice.

Treatments are available from any pharmacy.