



## Get the Facts *About Head Lice*



Although the thought of having a child with head lice can leave you feeling anxious, know that head lice are both extremely common and very easy to treat. Head lice are found worldwide, predominantly in preschool and elementary school-aged children. An estimated 6 to 12 million infestations of lice occur each year in the United States alone. Get the facts about head lice so that you can take the necessary steps to treat it and prevent the spread of head lice through your home.

### What Are Head Lice?

Head lice are tiny insects that live close to the human scalp and feed on human blood. Head lice are found most often on the back of the neck and behind the ears. Although lice can't jump or fly, they can spread very easily from person to person through close contact or through shared clothing or personal items (such as a hat, towel, or hairbrush).

### How Can I Identify Head Lice?

To understand how to identify lice, it helps to know the three different forms of head lice:

- **Eggs (nits):** Nits are oval-shaped lice eggs that attach themselves to the hair shaft. They are hard to see with the naked eye, as they're only about as large as a knot in a piece of thread. Usually white or yellow in color, they are often confused with dandruff or scabs. Nits usually take about 8-9 days to hatch. Eggs that are likely to hatch are usually located very close to the base of the hair shaft.
- **Nymph:** A nymph is an immature louse (singular of lice) that hatches from the nit. It takes about 9-12 days for a nymph to mature into an adult.
- **Adult louse:** An adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, has six legs, and is tan to grayish-white in color. An adult louse, which must feed on blood in order to live, can survive up to 30 days on a person's head but will die within one or two days if it falls off a person.

Head lice can usually be detected by looking closely for live lice or eggs in the hair. Use of a magnifying glass can assist in the search.

## Need help?

Contact the Nix® Call Center: 888.542.3546

Visit [NixLice.com](http://NixLice.com) For More Product Information

If you're not sure whether your child has head lice, ask a school nurse or other health care provider to conduct a thorough search.

### What Are the Symptoms of Head Lice?

The most common symptom associated with head lice is itching, although it may take some time for symptoms to develop.

### What Can I Do If My Child Has Head Lice?

Children with head lice need to be treated in order to kill lice and their eggs. The most common treatment is a medicated cream, lotion, or shampoo, such as Nix® Crème Rinse, which is applied to the scalp and hair. The medicine in Nix® is recognized as the most effective over-the-counter treatment for killing lice and their eggs according to the Academy of Pediatrics.

Here are some other things to know about Nix®:

- Nix® has been the #1 pharmacist-recommended brand for more than 15 years
- Nix® has a maximum-strength formula
- Nix® kills lice and their eggs
- Nix® protects against lice reinfestation for up to 14 days
- Nix® is safe for use on children as young as 2 months old

### Does Poor Hygiene Cause Lice?

Some people think that only "dirty kids" get head lice. This is simply not true. Lice are attracted to blood, not to dirty hair. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home has nothing to do with getting head lice. People from all walks of life get head lice. The important thing to know is that once head lice are detected, immediate treatment is required.



the new **Nix** Complete  
Lice Elimination Kit