

Treatment Options

Over the Counter Methods

Permethrin 1%. Synthetic pyrethroid. Available over-the-counter without a prescription. Currently is the recommended treatment of choice by the American Academy of Pediatrics in newly diagnosed cases of head lice. Pyrethrins plus piperonyl butoxide. Manufactured from natural extracts from chrysanthemums. Available over the counter.

Prescription Methods

There are also products available by prescription only through your physician.

Mechanical Removal

Combing: Over-the-counter or prescription treatments kill adult and nymphal lice, but rarely all the eggs (nits). Combing the hair to remove all nits is recommended to get rid of the infestation completely. Combing should be done daily until no lice or nits are seen and then continued for three weeks.

Useful Tools

Licemeister Comb: A sturdy, steel comb with long, metal teeth. Most recommended comb for nit removal.

Alternative Treatments

Shampoos with herbs, oils, or enzymes. Substances such as mayonnaise or olive oil are often applied to the head for 8 hours covered with a shower cap. These treatments work by suffocating the louse and newly hatched nymphs. These methods can be used frequently (every 3-4 days) along with combing. Recommended to those who are pregnant or for children less than 2 years old.



Saginaw County
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Head Lice



Information Brochure

Did you know....

Lice cannot jump
or fly?

Lice can only
crawl...



Help Control Lice Infestation:

Inspect child's head weekly

Watch for excessive head scratching

Never share the following:

Hats



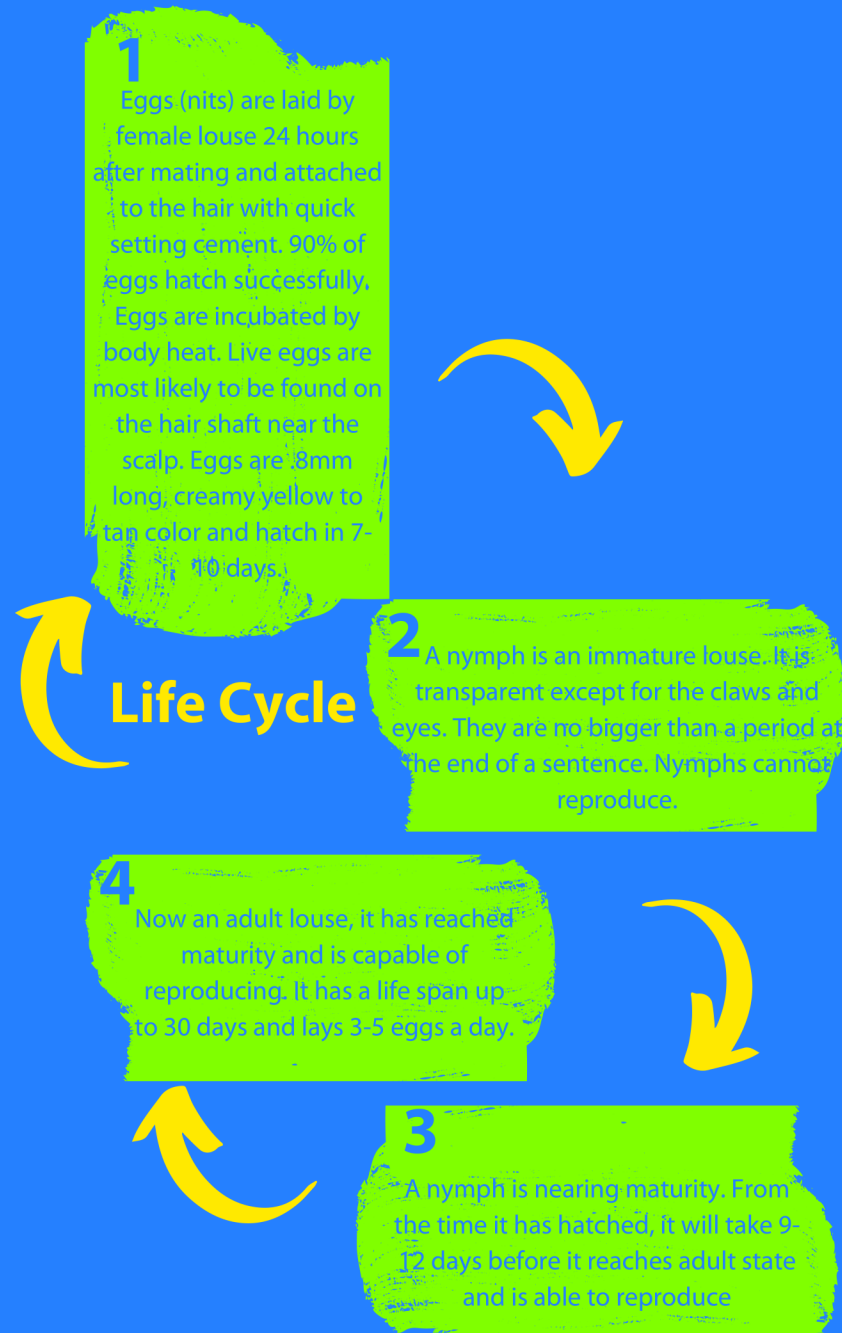
Combs



Headphones



What you should know about lice.....



Tips for successful treatment:

Treat all infected family members. Treat at the same time so no one is re-infected

Make sure to remove nits.

Wash bedding, clothes, and anything worn within 3 days using hot water and dry in hot dryer

Vacuum mattress, furniture, carpet and cars.

Seal stuffed animals and toys in a plastic bag for 2 weeks at room temperature or 24 hours in below freezing.

Soak combs, brushes and any hair accessories in hot water for 10 minutes.

Notify school, daycare and neighborhood parents

Make sure to follow all product directions carefully, use over sink and to minimize exposure don't try and treat in the shower or tub