

## Does the household environment need to be treated?

- Routine cleaning of the child's environment, including washing recently used clothing, bedding and linens in hot water is recommended.
- Items that can not be washed should be sealed in plastic bags for 2 weeks.
- Vacuum carpeting, upholstery and car seats.

**Remember:** Head lice can survive off a human host for up to 48 hours and nits will hatch within 7-10 days.

## What if I don't get rid of head lice after treatment?

Consult your pediatrician or inform the school clinic.

## How can the spread of head lice be stopped?

The key to successful eradication of a head lice infestation is to break their life cycle through proper treatment.

## Will I ever get rid of head lice?

Don't get discouraged! It takes time and YES, it will end. The main reasons for continued infestations are:

- Did not follow directions on the product.
- Did not remove all lice or nits.
- Did not treat the environment thoroughly.

**Remember:** Each person with head lice needs a complete treatment. Do not split a single box of shampoo or container of rinse treatment between those that are infested.

## Check Regularly - Treat Quickly!

Check your child's head:

- weekly as part of your routine
- after sleepovers
- every day during outbreaks at school

Keep long hair tied back or braided.

Teach your child to put their hat or scarf in their coat sleeve or backpack when they take them off at school.

Head lice spread easily, so if one person in the household has lice, others may have it, too. Check everyone in the household on the same day.

For persistent cases, the Beaverhead County Public Health nurse may be involved with school staff and the family for further consultation.

Individuals should be referred to their healthcare provider if pediculocide resistance is suspected.

For more information please contact:

**Beaverhead County Public Health  
Department**

41 Barrett Street, Dillon  
683-4771

# Head Lice Treatment

## What Parents Need To Know!

