

Steps for Treating the Home Environment

1. Notify other members in the household to check for lice. Everyone in the household should be checked at the same time so treatment, if needed, can begin immediately.
2. Wash clothes, bed linens, and towels in HOT water (130-140° F) after family members have been treated so they do not become re-infected by any lice still living on those items. Do not leave clothes on floors or furniture. Wash bed clothes, bed linens and towels daily for ten (10) days beyond the last case of identified head lice.
3. Dry clothes on the hot cycle for at least twenty minutes.
4. Remove items that are not machine washable (such as stuffed animals, headphones, and hats) from the environment until they are dry cleaned or stored at room temperature in a tightly sealed plastic container with a lid or a plastic bag for fourteen (14) days. If plastic bags are used, keep bags secured in area where children will not have access.
5. Vacuum ALL carpets, pillows, rugs, cars, car seats, and upholstered furniture (such as couches, chairs, and bean bags) DAILY for 10 days beyond the last identified case of head lice. You may vacuum your bed and pillow daily if unable to wash linens daily.
6. Disinfect combs, brushes, hair ties, barrettes, sports helmets, headphones, and other objects that come in contact with the head by soaking them for thirty (30) minutes in a solution of a head lice treatment product or a disinfectant (one quart of water mixed with 1 ½ tablespoons of Lysol). Putting items into an automatic dishwasher and running the complete cycle is also an option.
7. Do not use aerosols or fumigation sprays because lice do not hide in wall crevices and floor cracks like cockroaches or other household pests. Vacuuming is adequate.