

Head lice treatments are widely available and are easy to apply.

TREATING HEAD LICE

There are various products available on the market to treat head lice. These products range from natural to chemical treatments to a combination of both. Head lice treatments effectively kill head lice but must be re-applied seven days later to remove any remaining lice. Avoid using hair dryers after applying treatments as the heat may destroy the active ingredients. See below for commonly available head lice treatments.

All items that have come into contact with hair containing head lice must be treated:

- Soak all washable items in hot water at a temperature of at least 60oC for at least ten minutes;
- Non-washable items, such as teddy bears, should be placed into plastic bags and sealed for 2 weeks to kill all lice;
- Pillowcases and bed linen should be washed in hot water (at least 60oC) or dried in a clothes dryer on the hot or warm setting;
- Vacuum all carpets, lounges, etc.

ARE HEAD LICE TREATMENTS SAFE?

In general, head lice treatments are safe when used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Head lice treatment products may become dangerous when:

1. Insecticidal head lice products are used to prevent head lice.
2. Using kerosene to treat head lice.
3. Other insecticidal products, such as pet flea or tick treatments, are used on the head.

Consult your doctor before using any head lice treatment on pregnant or breast-feeding women, infants less than 12 months old or people with sensitive skin.

PREVENTING HEAD LICE

1. Avoid direct head to head contact and keep long hair tied back or plaited.
2. Discourage children from sharing any headgear, including combs and hats.
3. Check hair for head lice once a week. Daily checks are necessary during outbreaks.
4. Wear gloves or wash your hand after examining hair containing head lice.

COMMONLY AVAILABLE HEAD LICE TREATMENTS

Active Insecticide Group	Commercial Product
Pyrethrins	Amcal Head Lice Foam Banlice Mousse Delva Formula PCT Lyban Foam Meditox Foam Pyrenol Pyrifoam Lotion
Synthetic Pyrethroids (Bioallethrin)	Orange Medic Orange Medic Plus Pyrifoam Head Lice Treatment Quellada Crème Rinse Quellada Head Lice Treatment
Organophosphates (Maldison or Malathion)	Cleensheen Exolice Medicated foam HL7 HLT Lice Rid KP24 Lotion KP24 Foam LX Medicated Foam
Combinations of Herbal/Essential Oils	Herbs for Head Lice Lice Attack Quit Nits all Natural Lice Treatment Sunsprit Aromatherapy Lice Scents to Kill Wild Child All Natural Head Tea Tree Lice Foam Nads Natural
Combinations of Herbal/Essential Oils and Natural Pyrethrin	Lice Blaster

SEE ALSO:

- Head Lice - General Information

CONTACT DETAILS

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