



20 Facts about head lice

1. Human lice are only transmitted between people and never come from animals.
2. Head lice can only crawl (not fly, hop or jump) from human head to head.
3. Adult lice can only live a maximum of 48 hours off of a human head; baby lice (nymphs) can survive only a couple hours.
4. Transmission of head lice from inanimate objects (the environment) is very uncommon.
5. Head lice are not carriers of any diseases. Mainly just a nuisance bug.
6. Nits are laid close to the scalp and are viable within 1/4 inch from the scalp.
7. Nits need a warm incubator (the head) to grow and humidity in order to hatch.
8. We regularly see live lice on clients' heads after their home treatments of NIX and RID.
9. Outbreaks are not easily eradicated with the OTC pesticides of Permethrin or Pyrethrum due to pesticide resistance, those pesticides do absolutely nothing against the nits (eggs).
10. Nothing kills lice eggs as far as we know. They must be manually removed. Do not be fooled by product labels claiming to be 100% effective at ridding a head lice infestation. Some lice may in fact survive topical treatments and nits must still be manually removed.
11. Re-infestations are often the same infestation which was never completely eradicated and has erupted again.
12. Dying your hair or putting large amount of conditioner will not help apart from having a lovely new hair style; you will not get rid of the bugs this way.
13. Lice are opportunistic bugs, surviving only on human blood; they are not affected by cleanliness or dirtiness in their need to survive.
14. Lice prefer clean, dry hair - ideally on people with better hygiene. Dirty or oily hair is slippery therefore harder for lice to glue nits to.
15. Doing thorough head checks on all family members is crucial; treating EVERYONE "to be safe" with an OTC pesticide is an unnecessary waste of time and energy.
16. You can have lice up to 4-6 weeks before you begin itching your scalp and 50% of infested people have no itching symptoms at all.
17. In ongoing infestations habituation can occur and itching decreases.
18. Lice bites and nits are commonly found behind the ears, crown of head and nape of neck.
19. The Head Lice Life Cycle illustrates that a couple of missed nits can take upwards of 19 days (almost 3 weeks!) to become adults before a new egg is even laid – and most likely another week before enough nits are visible to spot. That's one month, well outside the recommended two week time frame to check after an infestation.
20. Body lice, a completely different strain of lice, do transmit diseases.