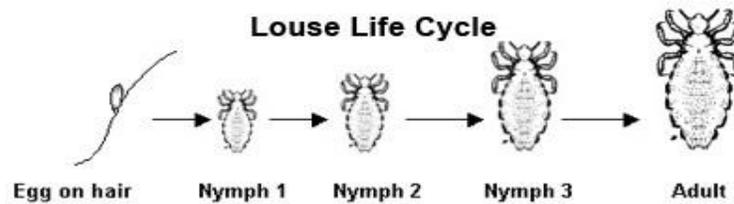


VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH
Hawaii Department of Health

LICE

There are three species of human lice but only the head and crab lice are common in Hawaii. Because head and crab lice transmit no disease, they are considered to be more of a social problem than a healthy one. Head and body lice are almost identical in appearance; they are more readily identified by their location on the infested body than by their appearance.



LIFE CYCLE

The eggs, called “nits” are glued to hair by crab and head lice, and to clothing by body lice. Nymphs that hatch from nits undergo three growth stages before becoming adults. Both immature nymphs and adults feed on blood. The most common method for transmission of lice is by body to body contact; contact with infested bedding, furniture, carpets, or toilet articles are not considered major factors in the transmission of head and crab lice.

LICE SPECIES

- 1) **Body Lice:** All stages of body lice occur on clothing. The nymphs and adults move from clothing to the body only to feed. Development from egg to adult takes about three weeks and the life span of adults is one month. Body lice can survive without feeding for 8-10 days.
- 2) **Head Lice:** Head lice are usually found only on the head. Eggs are glued to the hair at the scalp line. Those attached to hair more than ¼ inch above the scalp line are usually only empty shells of eggs that have hatched. Development time from egg to adult is three weeks. Life span of adults is one month. Head lice normally die after three days off the host.
- 3) **Crab Lice:** Crab lice are usually found attached to hairs on the pubic and anal regions but they may spread to chest hairs, armpits, and eyebrows. Children

without pubic hairs become infested on their eyelashes and occasionally at the eyebrows or hairlines. Development from egg to adult is three weeks. Life span of adults is one month. Crab lice falling off the host die within 24 hours.

CONTROL METHODS

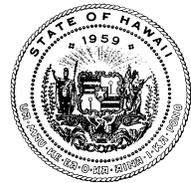
All infestations must be eliminated with pesticides specifically formulated for lice. The better prescription formulas can only be obtained from a physician. Washing of infested clothing and bed sheets in hot water and the vacuuming of carpets, furniture, and floors are the most effective way to eliminate lice that are off the host. Spraying of pesticides is considered unnecessary in the opinion of experts.

CAUTION: *Certain pesticides and their solvents may cause respiratory irritation. Persons with respiratory diseases should consult their physicians before using any pesticide. IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW IF PESTICIDES ARE NOT APPLIED EXACTLY AS THE LABEL DIRECTS.*

For further information and details, contact:

Oahu:
99-945 Halawa Valley Street
Aiea, HI 96701
Telephone: (808) 586-4708

Big Island:
Environmental Health Facility
1582 Kamehameha Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
Telephone: (808) 974-4238
(808) 974-4241
(808) 974-4237



Maui:
641 Mua Street
Kahului, HI 96732
Telephone: (808) 873-3560

Kona:
Keakealani Building
79-1020 Haukapila Street, #115
Kealahou, HI 96750
Telephone: (808) 322-1509
(808) 322-1512
(808) 322-1515



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Molokai:
Molokai State Office Building
65 Makaena Street
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Telephone: (808) 873-3560

Kauai:
4398 B Pua Loke Street
Lihue, HI 96766
Telephone: (808) 241-3306

** We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion or disability. Write or call our Affirmative Action Officer at Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378 or at (808) 586-4616 (voice) within 180 days of a problem.