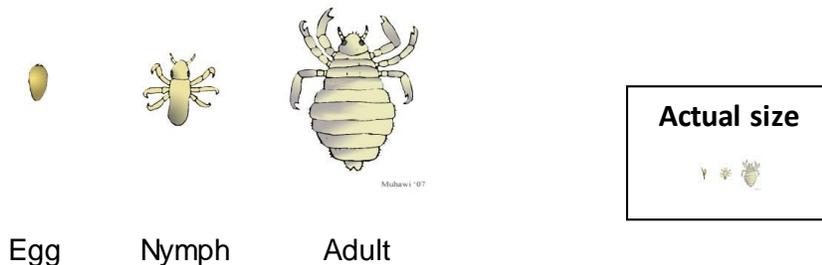


Important Information about BODY LICE



What are body lice?

- Body lice are tiny insects that live and lay eggs in unwashed clothing and bedding (like sheets and blankets). These insects crawl onto the skin of people to bite and feed on their blood. Adult body lice are tan or gray in color and are about the size of a sesame seed.
- Body lice have three life stages and are a different size during each stage:



How do people get body lice?

- Body lice spread in unclean living conditions where hygiene is poor and sometimes if spaces are crowded. Body lice can be common in homeless people, who often cannot bathe, shower, or change clothes regularly.
- You can get body lice by coming in close contact with someone who has body lice, or by wearing their clothes. You can also get body lice by laying on bedding that was used by someone that has body lice.

What are the signs and symptoms of body lice?

- Severe itching and rashes (red, raised dots) on the skin.
- Lice or lice eggs (nits) seen in the seams or edges of clothing or bedding.
 - Occasionally, lice may be seen crawling or biting the skin.
- Thick, dark skin patches, usually around the waist area.
- Sores or infections on the skin caused by scratching.

How do I treat and stop the spread of body lice?

- Take a hot bath or shower regularly.
- Wash clothes and bedding in hot water and dry on a hot cycle at least once per week.
- If washing does not help, see a doctor or nurse.
- Do not share clothes, beds, bedding, or towels with someone who has body lice.