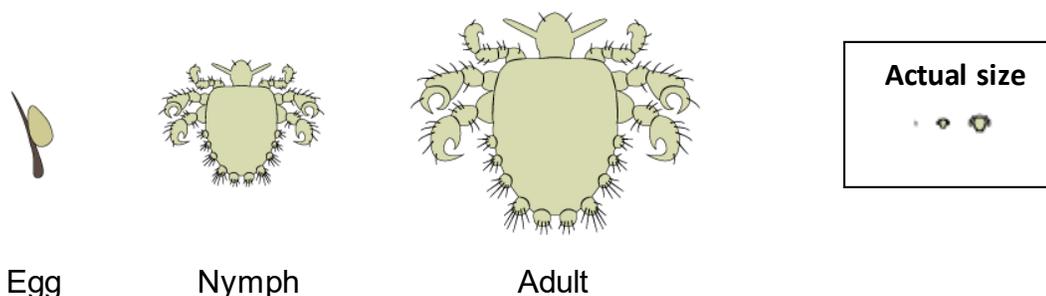


Important Information about PUBIC LICE

What are pubic lice?

- Pubic lice, also known as “crabs”, are tiny insects that live and lay eggs (called nits) on pubic hair in the genital area of humans. Pubic lice may also sometimes attach to other coarse body hair, such as on the legs, chest, armpits, beard, eyebrows, and eyelashes.
- Pubic lice feed on human blood. Adult pubic lice will die within 24 to 48 hours if they are away from a human body. Adult pubic lice are tan or gray in color and look like a crab (since the two front legs look like pincher claws). Pubic lice have three life stages and are a different size during each stage.



How do people get pubic lice?

- Pubic lice are spread by close contact (especially sexual contact) with someone who has pubic lice. Sometimes pubic lice can spread by sharing clothes, bedding, or towels with someone who has pubic lice.
- Pubic lice are **not** spread through quick, casual touching like hugging.
- Pubic lice are **not** spread by sitting on a toilet seat.

What are the signs and symptoms of pubic lice?

- Intense itching in the genital area.
- Lice or nits seen crawling or attached to coarse body hair (usually pubic hair).
 - Pubic lice are not the same as head lice and are usually not found on the head.
- Sores and infections on the skin caused by scratching.

Do pubic lice spread diseases?

- No, pubic lice do **not** spread diseases, but people with pubic lice should be tested for other sexually transmitted infections.

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

- Over-the-counter [treatment products](#) and prescription medication are available to treat pubic lice.
- Check potential sexual partners for pubic lice. Avoid sexual contact with someone who has pubic lice until they have been treated and no longer have them.
- Wash clothes, bedding, and towels in hot water and dry on the hot cycle, especially if you share these items with other people.