



Head Lice Life Cycle

The life cycle of head lice means the period of time between the moment head lice eggs are laid by the female until the moment head lice die. The head lice life cycle lasts about 45 days.

Head lice reproduce very quickly. The male can fertilize 18 females in a row without taking a break. The females mate several times during their adult life, which can vary from ten to forty days, usually about 20 days. They lay up to 10 lice eggs or nits daily.

From Egg To Nymph: One Week

Head lice incubation period lasts about a week (from 6 to 9 days exactly), which means that head lice eggs or nits hatch about a week after eggs have been laid. Head lice eggs hatch to release a nymph. The latter resembles the adult lice, but of course it is smaller, and it measures about 1 millimeter, the size of a pinhead.

From Nymph To Adult Louse: Another Week

The adult stage is reached after approximately 7 days after three successive molts. Thus, from the laying of the egg to the emergence of adults are 17 days, and the adult will live for about 30-40 days.

Adult Stage: One Month

The lifespan of an adult louse is about 30 days. This means that head lice, once they have reached the adult stage, will live for about one month. They can only survive this long if on a human head. They need to feed on human blood several times a day. They will die within 48 hours off a human head.

Facts of Lice

- **Are lice dangerous and do they carry diseases?**

No. Lice do not carry diseases, they do cause itching and rashes.

- **How long does it take a nit to hatch?**

Nits take 8-12 days to develop and hatch.

- **How many nits does a louse lay?**

A louse can lay up to 6-10 eggs per day and can live 30 days before it dies. Each bug can lay 180-300 eggs before it dies.

- **How come the over-the-counter products don't work?**

Today's Super-Lice have built up a resistance to the chemicals.

- **How are lice transferred from one person to another?**

The most common way is through head-to-head contact. It can also be transferred by hair accessories (hats, brushes, hair barrettes, etc.). Lice feed off of the human scalp up to 3 times a day and will die within 36 hours when not on the head.

- **How should I clean my furniture and car after treatment?**

You don't have to do anything in particular, because the lice will die on it's own.

- **Are nits viable if they fall off the head?**

No. Nits attach like glue to the hair shaft, they don't typically fall off the hair.

- **If my child has lice, does that mean their hair was dirty?**

No, lice love clean hair. They can hold their breath for up to 8 hours in water.

- **What can I do to prevent this from happening again?**

You can use Halo Hair Prevention.

- **Does everyone feel itchy from lice?**

No, some people don't seem to be as affected by it as others.

- **Can my pets have lice? No.**

Lice can only live on human heads.