

SOUTHERN DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY

This leaflet has been produced by the Department of Public Health

HEAD LICE POLICY

Every household with children should own a detection comb (priced less than £1). TREATMENT SHOULD ONLY BE APPLIED IF LICE ARE PRESENT.

PREVENTION

- Daily brushing and combing of hair, preferably at night. Check wet hair by combing with a detection comb at least once weekly.
- DO NOT use insecticide lotions for prevention as this encourages the development of resistant lice.

DETECTION

- Lice are best found by combing wet hair with a detection comb from the roots of the hair outwards - Do this over a white surface.

TREATMENTS

There are 2 recommended ways of treating lice.

1. Wet combing Method. This must be done over a 2 week period.
 - Wash hair with a normal shampoo.
 - Using a lot of hair conditioner comb the wet hair outwards from the roots using a detection comb - Do this over a white surface.
 - Clear the comb of lice between each stroke.
 - Repeat this routine every 3-4 days for 2 weeks to remove any lice emerging from the eggs.
2. Insecticide Lotions (Do not use insecticide shampoos). Ref: BNF Ch. 13, 10:4.
 - Ask your School Nurse, Health visitor, local Pharmacist or Practice Nurse which lotion to use.
 - Follow the manufacturers instructions.

EXCLUSION

- Once treatment has commenced there is **no need** to exclude pupils from school.

TREATMENT FAILURE

- If after correct treatment the lice keep recurring, refer to your GP.

CONTACTS

- Head to head contacts should have their hair inspected using a detection comb.
- DO NOT treat contacts unless they have lice.

**REMEMBER - WASH AND COMB
LEAVES THE LOUSE WITHOUT A HOME!**

LICE can be caught as easily as a cold.