



# Head Lice: The Facts

**Q: How do you catch Head lice?**

A: Head lice are usually caught from freshly tumble dried washing. The small lice are attracted to the open vents of the machines which they fly into. Having detected the stream of warm air. They pupate and hatch within the corrugated hoses...straight hoses help to keep down infestations, and crawl into the drum itself. From there they settle into the fabric, preferring fleece items such as hats and scarves.

**Q: Can Headlice jump?**

A: Yes, they have well developed rear limbs which help them progress up the Tumble Drier Vents. Tests have shown mature Head lice can jump up to four feet (1.2M).

**Q: What are the symptoms of Head lice?**

A: A hormone secreted by the adult female affects the scalp and also the sensory organs such as the nose. Usually thinking about Head lice or reading about them will bring on hair and facial itching in those already infested

**Q: How do you check for Head lice?**

A: If you feel itchy, wind a long length of sellotape around your hand so the adhesive is outwards, combing this through your hair will reveal small white specks like tiny flat grains of rice, these are the egg sacs which are often confused with dandruff

**Q: Can special shampoos and oils can deter Head lice?**

A: This is true, Shampoos based on Tea-Tree oil and vinegar leave a residue which the Head lice find repellent. A new and better cure is tea itself. Use the tea inside a tea bag, dry, rubbed into the scalp. After a few hours, rinse the hair in plenty of hot water. There have been some encouraging results with Smokey bacon crisps, the flavouring of which contain a chemical the lice do not seem to like.

**Q: Are people with dirty hair more likely to get Head lice?**

A: No, in fact, in this country the middle class tend to get Head lice as their ownership of tumble dryers is far higher. This explains why Head lice are not a problem in countries without electricity such as Afghanistan and Portugal

**Q: Are Nits the same as Head lice?**

A: Yes, Nits are the young Head lice. In order they are called Dust between 0 and 1 week, Nits between 1 week and 3 weeks. Baby lice between 3 weeks and five weeks and after five weeks they are fully mature Head lice and can breed.

**Q: How long do Head lice live?**

A: Usually about 14 weeks. If the feeding ground is particularly rich then they can live up to 22 weeks but by this time they have grown fairly large and usually infest the armpits to avoid easy detection.

**Q: How often do they breed?**

A: Twice a night starting when they are six days old, and continuing until death.

**Q: Should I worry about Head Lice if I think I have them?**

A: No, you should be more concerned with your gullibility at reading this drivel off the internet and believing it rather than doing some proper research in a real book. This help sheet sets out to trap those who believe the Internet is some huge free authoritative encyclopaedia...and if you have read this far, you fell for it!