

Treatment	Type	Risks	Claims/Effectiveness
Kwell (lindane generic)	DANGER Prescription	Banned in 52 and restricted in 33 countries. Global ban for use in agriculture, allowed in USA for the treatment of head lice and scabies. Black box label warning. Headlice resistance. Linked to cancer, seizures, autism and death. Other side effects may include but is not limited to: dry skin, itching, burning and rash.	One-time ONLY treatment to be used when all else fails. Wear gloves, leave on hair for 4-10 minutes. Rinse immediately. Still need to comb. [1] [2]
Ovide (malathion- generic)	DANGER Prescription	Highly flammable keep away from all heat and open flames, can kill the root of a tree. Headlice resistance. Side effects include but are not limited to: allergic reaction, Chemical burns, itching, red or dry skin.	Applied to dry hair. Must be left on for 8-12 hours <u>Still need to comb.</u> [3] [4]
Kerosene/rubbing alcohol/Listerine	DANGER Home remedy	EXTREAMLY FLAMMABLE AND HIGHLY DANGEROUS. Can cause skin irritation, respiratory issues, first/second/third degree	<u>Just comb with a good lice comb.</u> [29]
Mayonnaise/olive oil/coconut oil/wrapping head	DANGER Home remedy	Salmonella poisoning through open wounds. Wrapping anyone's head with or without a product is always a bad idea. Plastic bags, plastic wrap, shower caps and towels etc. can easily suffocate someone and cause death.	Claims to smother Head lice and kill eggs (nits). Head lice can survive long periods of time coated and submerged. They are known to play dead. <u>Small amounts of Coconut/olive oil can aid in combing.</u> [21] [22]
Perm/Hair dye/Bleach	DANGER Home Remedy	Allergic reactions, damage to hair, temporary and permanent hair loss, chemical burns, dry itchy scalp.	Claims to have an effect on the head louse exoskeleton and dissolve the outer shell of the egg(nit). No studies have been done to determine any effects. The risks out way any possible pros. <u>Still need to comb</u> [26] [27]
Flea and tick and deworming medication/shampoo/dips	DANGER Home remedy	A lot of animal products contain the same pesticide ingredients as human head lice products. These ingredients are in different doses and contain other ingredients not meant for contact or absorption on humans. Not head lice.	There are over 3000 different species of lice and they all host specific. Dog and Cats get their own type of lice. <u>Just comb with a good lice comb.</u> [28]
Rid TM (Pyrethrin)	Over the counter pesticide	90%-100% head lice resistance. Neurotoxin, Allergic reaction to those who are allergic to ragweed. Risk of neurotoxicity include but is not limited to: fatigue, pain, depression, memory loss, lung and sinus conditions etc.	Apply to dry hair for 10 minutes then rinse apply second treatment a week later. <u>Still need to comb</u> [10] [11]

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Nix TM (Permethrin) Synthetic pyrethrin	Over the counter pesticide	90%-100% head lice resistance. Neurotoxin. Risk of neurotoxicity include but is not limited to: fatigue, pain, depression, memory loss, lung and sinus conditions etc.	Apply to dry hair for 10 minutes then rinse apply second treatment a week later. <u>Still need to comb [12] [13]</u>
Bactrim (pill Antibiotic)	Prescription	Common side effects include nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite; or mild itching or rash. Possible allergic reaction.	Used in extreme cases to help heal open sores and secondary infections and aid in killing off some live bugs. 2 pills a day for 10 days <u>Still need to comb once scalp is healed. [5]</u>
Ulesfia (Benzyl alcohol)	Prescription	Not used on anyone allergic to Benzyl alcohol. Side effects include but are not limited to mild pain, itching, irritation, redness, or numbness of scalp	Two treatments 1 week apart. Apply to dry hair and scalp for 10 minutes rinse hair. <u>Still need to comb [6]</u>
Sklice (Ivermectin)	Prescription	Less than 1% of users have reported the following side effects: conjunctivitis, ocular hyperemia, eye irritation, dandruff, dry skin, and skin burning sensation	Apply to dry hair for 10 minutes then rinse hair. <u>Still need to comb [7]</u>
Lycelle (Citronellyl acetate)	Prescription	Side effects include: stinging and burning skin, allergic reaction, burns, hives and skin ulcers	Apply to dry hair and leave for 10 minutes rinse and wash hair. Multiple treatments may be needed. <u>Still need to comb [8]</u>
Natroba (spinosad)	Prescription	Possible reactions may include alopecia, and dry skin. Allergic reaction to Benzyl alcohol	Apply to dry hair for 10 minutes then rinse hair. Apply second treatment a week later. <u>Still need to comb [9]</u>
Lice shampoo/ mousse/ spray (Too many to list)	Over the counter.	Not regulated by the FDA. Some products may contain risky ingredients. Some of these products can stain or strip color treated hair.	Usually 10 minutes to 1-hour application. <u>Still need to comb. [14]</u>

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AirAlle TM	FDA approved heated air application to dehydrate live bugs and eggs (nits)	<p>Cannot be used on persons who cannot sense temperature or pain; who cannot communicate physical discomfort; who have open head wounds, sores, or visible signs of skin or scalp abnormalities or who have received radiation treatment of the head within the last 6 months; or those who have cranial or facial implants. Because the device delivers heated air, there is a slight possibility of scalp burn if the device is not used according to instructions.</p>	<p>High heat is applied for 30 minutes. Because some live head lice and eggs (nits) can remain a product application and a 1-hour <u>comb out</u> is needed. [15]</p>
Electric lice comb	Over the counter	<p>Loud buzzing can scare young children and those with sensitivity to over stimulation. Must be careful not to let the small metal teeth touch ears.</p>	<p>Usually used on dry hair. Comb in small sections. will buzz or beep when any debris in the hair hit the high part of the small teeth. Must remove debris before comb will work again. Must monitor for 10 days. Claims to zap live bugs and remove nits, should be used alongside a head lice shampoo. [16]</p>
Dimethicone (Silicone oil)	Home remedy	<p>Flammable. Possible skin sensitivity. Can make oily hair limp.</p>	<p>Claims to smother head lice and eggs (nits). Head lice can survive long periods of time coated and submerged. Headlice also play dead. Needs three treatments. <u>Can help aid in combing.</u> [17] [18]</p>
Petroleum jelly	Home remedy	<p>Thick, messy and incredibly difficult to remove from hair. Makes proper treatment difficult.</p>	<p>Claims to smother Head lice and kill eggs (nits) Repeated treatments required. Head lice can survive long periods of time coated and submerged. They are known to play dead. <u>Still need to comb.</u> [23] [24]</p>
Hair spray/ gel	Home remedy	<p>Can sting eyes, aerosol sprays can cause respiratory irritation. Flammable.</p>	<p>Claims to make hair too stiff for head lice to move around or lay eggs. Head lice live close to the scalp and do not need to move to the outer parts of the head when they have a viable food source. Also, the glue that hold eggs (nits) in place incase part of the hair shaft and then hardens like cement. <u>Still need to comb</u> [25]</p>
Cetaphil TM gentle face wash	Home remedy	<p>Some Cetaphil can make skin more sensitive to sunlight or UV rays. Should not be used on broken skin or open wounds. Possibility for allergic reaction, burns from blow dryer</p>	<p>Claims to smother Head lice and kill eggs (nits). Head lice can survive long periods of time coated and submerged. They are known to play dead. Apply to dry hair, dry with blow dryer and leave on for 8 hours. 3 treatments needed a week apart. <u>Still need to comb.</u> [19] [20]</p>

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White vinegar/Coca-Cola rinse	Home remedy	Claims to dissolve glue attaching eggs (nits) to hair shaft. The glue makeup is like that of human hair; there is nothing at the moment that fully dissolves the glue that would not also damage the hair. Can make hair difficult to comb and eggs (nits) harder to remove. Vinegar can sting eyes,sores and the smell is uncomfortable.	Still need to comb. [30] [31]
Essential oils	Home remedy	Because essential oils are high in concentration, they can cause skin reactions, allergies, have possible effects on organs and enhance the absorption of other products into the skin. Tea tree oil for example is the most common essential oil used to prevent head lice; however, it is poisonous if swallowed, and has also been linked to possible breast growth in prepubescent boys and more studies need to be done.	Still need to comb. [32] [33] [34]
D.E. Diatomaceous earth food grade	Home remedy	Food grade D.E is a natural ,relatively safe pesticide made of fossilized remains of diatoms. Dry skin and scalp, itching. Eye irritant. Risk of respiratory issues and asphyxiation due to inhalation especially for those with asthma.	adsorbs the waxy layer off exoskeletons and being abrasive cuts insects and spiders that encounter it both resulting in dehydration from fluid loss. This does not work on head lice as the amounts needed to kill head lice would not be safe to use on humans with the risk of inhalation. Has no effects on eggs (nit) <u>still need to comb.</u> [35]
Nit removal	Manual removal	Possible but unlikely allergic reaction to safe products used to aid in combing.	Many companies use different methods to remove lice and eggs. some will have you follow a treatment plan, some require more than one treatment. Claims and removal vary by company.
The Shepherd Method TM	Manual Removal by combing	Possible but unlikely allergic reaction to safe, all natural and mint-based products used to aid combing.	One 1 ½ -2-hour treatment on average. Removes all live bugs and eggs (nits) [36]

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