

# Effective Treatment Recommendations for Head Lice

Treatment	Number of Applications	Availability
<p>Permethrin (1%)</p> <p>Brands: Nix</p>	<p>1 application</p> <p>May apply a second time if live lice are noted 7 – 10 days after initial treatment.</p>	<p>Available without a prescription</p> <p>Listed as drug of choice by the American Academy of Pediatrics.</p>
<p>Pyrethrin-based Products</p> <p>Brands: A-200, Barc, Clear, InnoGel Plus, Pronto, R&amp;C, RID, Tisit, Tegrin-LT, assorted generic products</p>	<p>2 applications 7 – 10 days apart (10 days optimal)</p> <p>Do not use if allergic to chrysanthemums.</p>	<p>Available without a prescription</p>
<p>Lindane (1%)</p> <p>Brands: Assorted generic products</p>	<p>1 application</p> <p>Due to safety concerns, treatment is usually limited to a single use.</p>	<p>Prescription required</p>
<p>Malathion (0.5%)</p> <p>Brands: Ovide</p>	<p>1 application</p> <p>Prescriber may suggest a second application if live lice are noted 7 – 10 days after initial treatment.</p>	<p>Prescription required</p>
<p>Ivermectin</p>	<p>Oral medication 200 mcg/kg</p>	<p>Prescription required</p> <p>Ivermectin is an approved drug but is considered investigational by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration.</p>

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics. [Pediculosis Capitis (Head Lice)]. In: Pickering LF, ed. *Red Book: 2003 Report of the Committee on Infectious Disease*. 26<sup>th</sup> ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003: [463-465].

