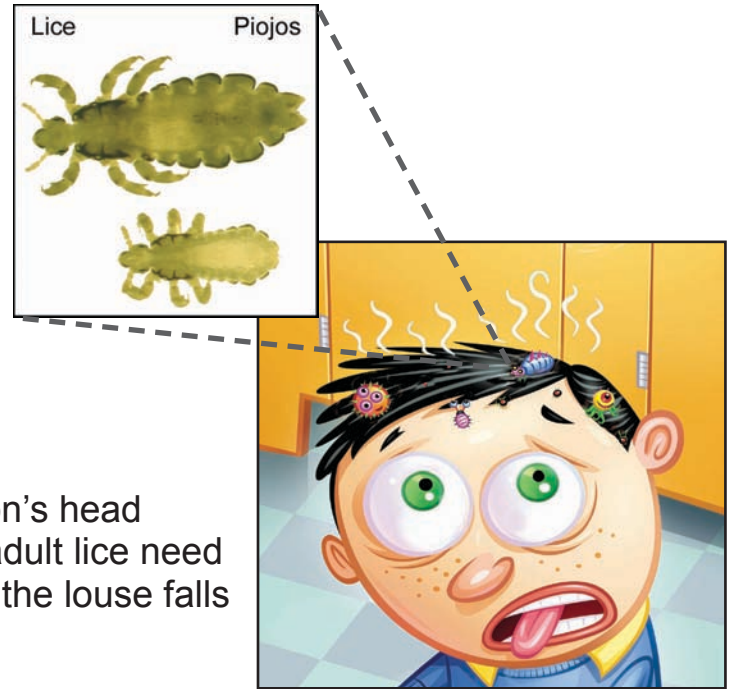


# Head Lice Fact Sheet — No.1

## What are lice?

1. Lice, or Pediculosis (pe-dic-u-lo-sis), are small tan to grayish-white insects, about the size of a sesame seed and have six legs.
2. They don't usually carry disease, but can cause your child and family discomfort, stress and sometimes skin irritation.
3. Lice can live up to 30 days on a person's head and lay from 50 to 150 eggs. To live, adult lice need to feed on blood every 3 to 6 hours. If the louse falls off a person, it dies within 2 days.
4. There are three types of lice: head, body and crab lice. Body lice haven't been reported in Texas for years. Head lice and crab lice are common but not usually found at the same time on a person.



### Here's where they can hide:

- Head lice live on the head and rarely leave the body.
- Body lice live in the seams and linings of clothing, blankets and sheets and move to the body when feeding.
- Crab lice live on the hairy portions of the body. They like the pubic and anal areas; but, only on adults. Adults who have pubic lice should be examined for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Even though crab lice and STDs aren't related, both conditions may be present at the same time. Children rarely get crab lice. However, if a child has it, you may want to suggest an examination for possible signs of inappropriate contact.

