

It's Open Season on Ticks

Protect yourself from tickborne disease this hunting season

Ticks feed on the blood of animals (such as rodents, rabbits, deer and birds) but will bite people too. Ticks live in grassy or wooded areas, or on animals. Hunting brings you in close contact with ticks, so take the proper safety precautions to reduce your chances of being bitten.

- Treat your clothing and gear with 0.5% permethrin before you hunt (always follow product instructions).
- Tuck your pants into your socks or boots to prevent tick bites.



Ticks can carry germs that cause serious and sometimes deadly diseases like Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia. Frequent tick checks and prompt removal of ticks increase the likelihood of removing a tick before it can spread disease.

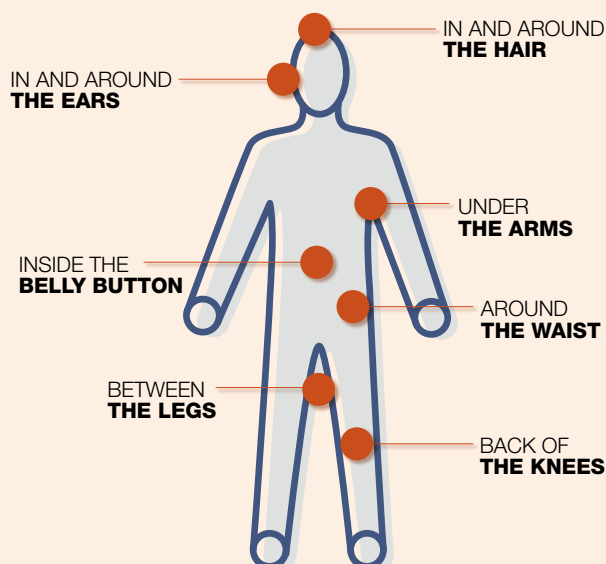
- Shower after returning from the outdoors.
- Perform tick checks after being outside in tick habitat.
- If you see a tick, remove it immediately using tweezers.
- Call your healthcare provider right away if you feel ill or develop a fever or rash after spending time in areas where ticks may be found. Tell them if you remember being bitten by a tick.

In general, CDC does not recommend taking antibiotics after tick bites to prevent tickborne diseases.

However, in certain circumstances, a single dose of doxycycline after a tick bite may lower your risk of Lyme disease.

Consider talking to your healthcare provider if you live in an area where Lyme disease is common.

WHERE TO CHECK FOR TICKS



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

How to safely remove a tick

The best method for removing ticks is to grasp it with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull up gently. Never use gasoline, kerosene, petroleum jelly, fingernail polish or matches to kill or drive a tick out once it has been embedded.

Ticks and tickborne diseases in the United States

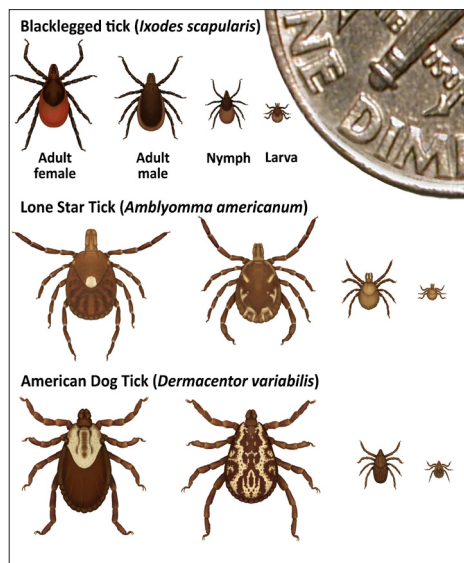


Image of the most common ticks in the United States.

The most common ticks in the United States are:

- **Blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*):** Can carry the germs that cause Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Powassan virus disease. Blacklegged ticks are widely distributed across the eastern United States.
- **Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*):** Can carry the germs that cause ehrlichiosis, tularemia and the Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI). Lone star ticks are widely distributed in the eastern United States, but more common in the South.
- **American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*):** Can carry the germs that cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) and tularemia. American dog ticks are widely distributed east of the Rocky Mountains, also in limited areas on the Pacific coast.

Many tickborne diseases, such as Lyme disease, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and RMSF can be treated effectively if caught early. Be sure to tell your doctor about any history of tick bites or outdoor activities where you might have been exposed to ticks. Many people who become ill do not remember seeing a tick.

Animals can carry diseases which may affect humans, including brucellosis, tularemia and rabies. Consider wearing gloves when dressing or butchering game, and wash hands thoroughly.

Remember...on your next hunt, **Target the Tick**

- Treat your clothing with permethrin
- Tuck pants into boots or socks
- Shower when you return from a hunt
- Perform tick checks after being outside in tick habitat
- If you develop a fever or rash, call your doctor

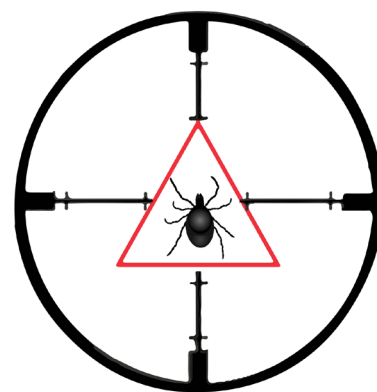


Image of tick in a rifle sight.