



The easiest and most effective way to find head lice is to use the conditioner and comb treatment weekly. This includes:

1.
 - Comb hair conditioner onto dry, brushed (detangled) hair.
 - This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around.
2.
 - Thoroughly comb sections of the hair with a fine-tooth head lice comb.
3.
 - Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.
4.
 - Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.
5.
 - Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 4 or 5 times.
6.
 - If lice or eggs are found, the person should be treated.

If the person has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, it may not necessary to treat them again, since the eggs could be from the old infection. A hatched egg looks like an egg with its top cut off.

The second preferred treatment option available for initially treating head lice are the 'conditioner and comb' method, and the use of an insecticide.

Using insecticide products

Any head lice treatment product you choose should carry an Australian Registered (AUST R) or *Australian Listed (AUST L) number* on the outer packaging. These numbers show that the product is accepted by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for supply in Australia.

If you use a lotion, apply the product to dry hair. For shampoo products, wet the hair, but use as little water as possible.

Head lice live in the hair and go to the scalp to feed. Therefore, head lice products must be applied to all parts of the hair.

Once the treatment has been done according to the instructions on the packet, comb through the hair again with the fine-tooth head lice comb. This will help to remove the dead eggs and lice, and possibly any eggs still living.

This is also a good time to check whether the removed lice have been killed by the treatment or are still alive. (If they are still alive this most likely means that they are resistant to the insecticide.)

Care should be taken when using head lice treatment products:
around

