

# Blacklegged Tick

*Ixodes scapularis*

## VECTOR MANAGEMENT



Pennsylvania  
Department of  
Environmental Protection



The Blacklegged tick is the most common tick found in Pennsylvania and the only PA tick that can transmit Lyme disease to people!



Adult Female, Adult Male, Nymph, Larva



Nymphal Blacklegged ticks are approximately the size of a poppy seed.

- Blacklegged ticks can vary in size depending on their life stage.
- Tick life cycle includes egg, larva, nymph, and adult.
- The nymph stage is most associated with transmitting disease due its small size.
- In addition to Lyme disease, Blacklegged ticks can transmit Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Deer Tick Virus, and Hard Tick Relapsing Fever.

- Lyme disease is an illness caused by a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*.
- Symptoms include, but are not limited to, fever, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches, and a bulls-eye rash (occurs in approximately 70%-80% of individuals). The appearance of the rash can vary widely.
- Typically, a tick must be attached for 24-48 hours for the Lyme disease bacteria to be transmitted. Prompt detection and removal can reduce the likelihood of getting Lyme disease.



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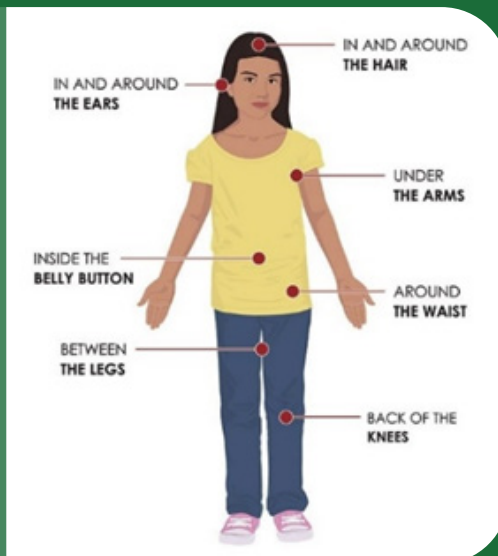


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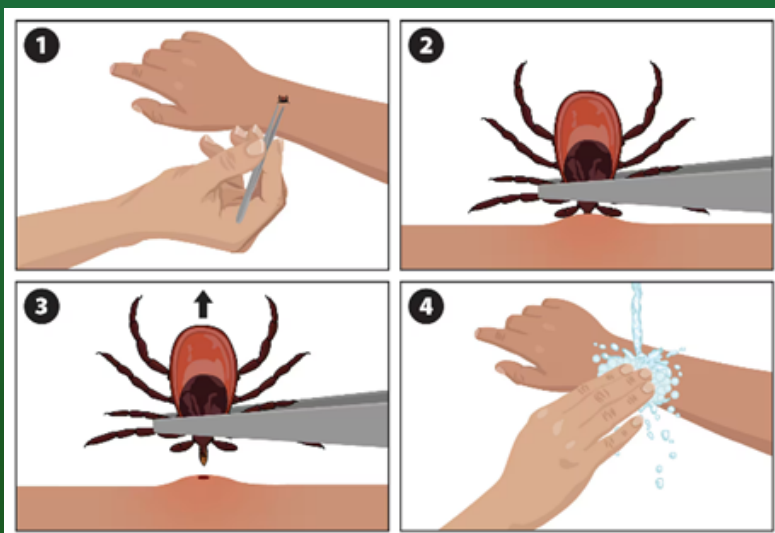


### TICK PREVENTION

- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin.
- Use EPA registered repellents.
- Wear light colored long pants/sleeves while outdoors; tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants.
- Check yourself and companion animals after being outside in tick habitat, put clothes into dryer for at least 10 minutes, and take a shower.



### TICK REMOVAL



- Use fine tipped tweezers to grasp the tick close to the skin's surface.
- Pull straight up with steady and even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick.
- After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with soap and water.
- Do not burn or apply solutions like Vaseline, nail polish, essential oils, etc., or wait for the tick to drop off itself. Prompt and appropriate removal of the tick will reduce the likelihood of pathogen transmission.



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