



Ticks

Ticks are plentiful in this area of the country from May to October. A small percentage of them carry the organisms which cause Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease. Ticks rarely transmit these infections until they have fed on a person for several hours. Therefore, prompt removal may prevent disease. Examine your children frequently during the spring and summer months for the presence of ticks. Keeping your pets free of ticks is a good preventative measure.

Methods for removal include:

1. Coating the tick with fingernail polish, polish remover or mineral oil.
 2. Grasping and removing with tweezers or fingertips.
 3. There is no therapy which will prevent Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever or Lyme Disease, although they are treatable once the disease is present. Obviously, it is most easily treated when recognized early. The common symptoms (fever, headache, abdominal pain, muscle aches and a rash) follow the tick bite in 4-12 days. There is no reason to call upon finding a tick, but call if the child becomes sick within the 4-12 day period or develops a gradually enlarging circular rash.
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