

Tick Identification Card

Actual Size (adult ticks)



Male



Female

Blacklegged (Deer) Tick



Male



Female

Lone Star Tick



Male



Female

American Dog (Wood) Tick



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Blacklegged (Deer) Tick - carrier of Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus. Females are orange-brown in coloration with a black spot near head, males are all black and smaller than females. Nymphs are even smaller and are all brown.

Lone Star Tick - recent invader of Wisconsin. Females are brown with a white spot in the center of the back. Males are brown with white markings along their back edge. They are known to transmit monocytic ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and tularemia in their native range of southeastern and central Midwestern U.S.

American Dog (Wood) Tick - unlikely to transmit Lyme disease or other diseases to humans. Tend to be larger than blacklegged ticks. Dark brown in coloration with a white "necklace" or white striping down sides.

Lyme Disease Information

Exposure: Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted by the bite of a blacklegged tick. Risk of developing the disease from a bite is less than 5%. Transmission is unlikely if tick has been embedded less than 36 hours.

Precaution: Wear long sleeves/pants and light colors to assist in protecting yourself and to more easily remove ticks from clothing. Insect repellent can provide some protection. Check yourself, children and pets carefully for ticks. Remove an attached tick using a fine-jaw tweezers and grasping the tick's head as close to the skin as possible and gently pulling straight out. Try not to squeeze the tick as you remove it. Wash area with antibacterial soap.

Symptoms: A ring-shaped rash may occur within 3 - 30 days. Symptoms may include fever, chills, headache, stiffness or pain in joints, weakness and fatigue. Symptoms may vary. It usually takes several weeks after a bite for blood tests to accurately reflect the presence of Lyme disease.

Treatment: If detected early, Lyme disease is easily treated with antibiotics.

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