

## Keep Up to Date!

Brochures to keep you up-to-date on other important state requirements:

- **Tool Safety for Nail Technicians**
- **Footbath Safety for Nail Technicians**
- **MMA Update for Nail Technicians**

Find brochures at [www.oregon.gov/OHLA](http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA) or contact us at (503) 378-8667 or [ohla.info@state.or.us](mailto:ohla.info@state.or.us) to order copies.

## OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) is a state consumer protection agency. We provide centralized regulatory oversight for multiple volunteer citizen boards, advisory councils and licensing programs of health and related professions.

Our mission is to help protect Oregonians by setting, communicating and enforcing uniform regulatory standards.

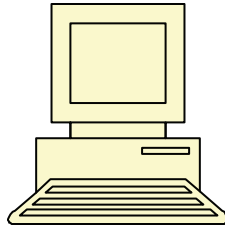
## BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

The Board of Cosmetology consists of six licensed practitioners and one public member. The boards and councils under the agency's administration set educational and professional scope of practice requirements but are not responsible for central agency operations.



## News You Can Use!

Turn to "Oregon Board News" in the *Northwest Stylist* every month to find the latest news from the Board of Cosmetology and the Oregon Health Licensing Agency. *Northwest Stylist* is distributed to cosmetology facilities statewide.



## Find it online!

Reach us 24/7 for Board news, online renewals and an expanding number of new services.

[www.oregon.gov/OHLA](http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA)

## OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

*Susan K. Wilson, Director*

700 Summer Street NE, Suite 320  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1287

503-378-8667  
503-585-9114 fax  
503-373-2114 TTY-Voice

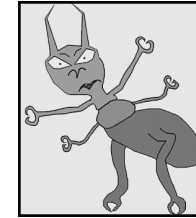
E-mail: [ohla.info@state.or.us](mailto:ohla.info@state.or.us)  
Web: [www.oregon.gov/OHLA](http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA)

Publication OHLA-59 (Rev 06/2006)

## Board of Cosmetology



# HEAD



# LICE

*Treatment by  
Licensed  
Practitioners*



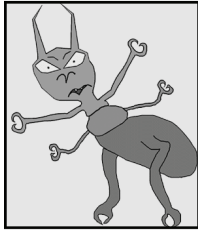
**OREGON  
HEALTH  
LICENSING  
AGENCY**

**HEAD LICE**

In Oregon, the treatment of head lice by certified hair designers and barbers is allowed. An increasing number of practitioners are being asked by their clients to treat head lice. The purpose of this brochure is to discuss the issues, the treatment options and the infection control practices practitioners should follow when treating head lice.

## What are head lice?

Head lice are small parasitic insects adapted to living on the scalp and neck hairs of humans. Head lice affect all socio-economic classes and their presence does not indicate a lack of hygiene or sanitation practiced by their host. Head lice are mainly acquired by direct head-to-head contact with an infested person's hair, but may occasionally be transferred with shared combs, hats and other hair accessories. They may also live on bedding or upholstered furniture for a brief period. Neither able to fly nor jump, lice are unlikely to wander far from their preferred habitat.



Generally, an infested person has fewer than a dozen active lice on the scalp at any time, but may have hundreds of viable, dead and hatched eggs.

## Treatment

Treatment should be considered only when active lice or viable eggs ("nits") are observed. Itching of the scalp or the perception that something is crawling on the head **do not** warrant treatment for lice with insecticides. The following are a list of treatment types:

- **Pyrethroid insecticides.** Infestations may be treated with shampoos containing permethrin or pyrethrins specifically labeled for use on people. Read and follow the label directions. These products seem to have limited ovicidal activity (egg-killing). A second treatment is often needed 10 days later to target lice that hatch after the initial treatment. Lice do not fall from the hair or die immediately upon treatment.
- **Mechanical removal** of lice and nits
- **Non-pyrethroid insecticides.** Other insecticides should be avoided unless specifically prescribed by a physician.

## Practitioner Tips

Employers or independent contractors may set the policy regarding whether head lice will be treated. If head lice are treated, the following tips are provided by the Centers for Disease Control, Division of Parasitic Diseases:

- Before applying treatment, the infected person should remove all clothing from the waist up.
- Apply lice medicine according to label instructions.
- Do not use crème rinse or combination shampoo/conditioner before using lice medicine.
- Have infested person put on clean clothing after treatment.
- A nit comb should be used to remove nits and lice from the hair shaft.
- To kill lice and nits, machine wash all clothing and capes that the infested person touched in hot water.
- Disinfect all combs, brushes and all equipment used.
- Vacuum the floor and furniture and dispose of hair promptly.

*For more information, visit:*

Harvard School of Public Health at [www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice)

American Academy of Pediatrics at [www.aap.org/policy/0203.html](http://www.aap.org/policy/0203.html)

Centers for Disease Control at [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice/default.htm)