

TICK SAFETY

The three most common ticks in Ohio are American Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick and the Black Legged (Deer) Tick.



GENERAL INFORMATION

- Ticks feed on blood (usually animals).
- Ticks can pass infections to people or pets.
- Diseases like Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and other tick related diseases are caused by ticks.

PET SAFETY

- Check your pets for ticks daily (especially after spending time outside).
- If you find a tick on your dog, remove it right away.
- Ask your veterinarian to conduct a tick check at each exam.
- Talk to your veterinarian about tick borne diseases in your Northwest Ohio.
- Reduce tick habitat in your yard.
- Talk with your veterinarian about using tick preventives on your pet.

YARD SAFETY

- Remove leaf litter.
- Clear tall grasses and brush around homes and at the edge of lawns.
- Mow the lawn frequently.
- Stack wood neatly and in a dry area (discourages rodents).
- Remove old furniture, mattresses, or trash from the yard that may give ticks a place to hide.



PERSONAL SAFETY



- Avoid overgrown areas with brush and debris.
- Check yourself and your children for ticks.
- Use repellants that contain 20% DEET (10% or less for children) or more.
- Parents should apply DEET products to their children, avoiding their hands, eyes, and mouth.

TICK REMOVAL DOs

- Shield fingers with a paper towel or use tweezers. Grasp the tick close to the skin.
- With steady pressure, pull the tick straight up and out.
- After removing a tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite site and wash hands with soap and water.

TICK REMOVAL DON'Ts

- Do **Not** twist or jerk the tick. This could cause the mouth parts to be left inside the skin.
- Do **Not** Crush or puncture the tick
- Do **Not** Use a flame or cigarette to remove a tick. This could cause the tick to burst and increase disease risk.

It is important to be prompt with removing ticks. If you experience a fever or rash after having contact with a tick, call your doctor, immediately!

For more information, contact the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department Division of Community Services - Epidemiology at 419-213-4274