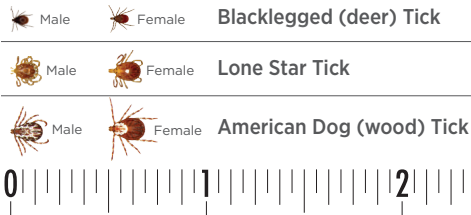


Keep this information handy in your wallet, fanny pack or back pocket. Print, trim, fold in half and fold again.

Tick Identification

Actual Size (adult ticks)



Tick images © Herbertos Verdugo M. & Darby S. Murphy

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Blacklegged (deer) Tick – carrier of Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus. Females are orange-brown with black spot near head. Males are black and smaller. Nymphs are even smaller and brown.

Lone Star Tick – recent invader of Wisconsin. Females are brown with white spot in center of back. Males are brown with white markings along back edge. Known to transmit human 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 any tick-borne disease to humans. Usually larger than blacklegged ticks. Dark brown with white “necklace” or white striping down sides.

Tick Protection

Reducing exposure to ticks is the only way to avoid tick-borne diseases. Protect yourself by:

Reducing tick habitat – Mow your lawn frequently and remove leaves, brush and yard waste. Create a three-foot border of wood chips, mulch or gravel between lawn and wooded areas.

Restricting tick carriers – Move woodpiles and bird feeders away from the house to discourage mice and other rodents. Use fencing or have plants that don’t attract deer.

Protecting yourself – Avoid grassy or wooded areas. Walk in the middle of trails. Use tick repellents that contain DEET. Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts tucked into clothing and cover your skin. Light-colored clothing makes it easier to spot ticks.

Checking yourself – Conduct a full-body tick search right after coming indoors, especially scalp, armpits, ears, neck and waist.

Examining pets and gear – Ticks can be carried inside your home and later attach to you.

Removing ticks immediately – Use a tweezers to grasp an embedded tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull evenly to remove the entire body. Wash with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.