

Lyme Disease Tick Vectors | What Do Deer Ticks Look Like | Info Graphic

Learn more about blacklegged ticks, also known as deer ticks. What blacklegged ticks look like and the diseases they cause.



TICK VECTORS

Ticks are not insects but are arachnids and are thus related to spiders and mites. They have 8 legs, except when they first hatch from eggs (larva), when they have 6 legs.

WHAT DO DEER TICKS LOOK LIKE?

Ixodes scapularis commonly called blacklegged or deer ticks, are generally born uninfected with Lyme disease, i.e., they do not contain the Lyme bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Research has shown a small percent may be born infected with the bacteria.



Photo Credit: James Occi, MA, MS



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The deer tick does have a two year life cycle and does survive the winter.

The deer tick can carry other disease organisms besides Lyme bacteria. *Babesia*, *Bartonella*, *Anaplasma*, tularemia, *Ehrlichia* and Powassan virus are some examples. One deer tick bite can infect you with one or more of these disease organisms.



Photo Credit: James Occi, MA, MS



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Other types of ticks have different life cycles and carry different diseases. Some examples important in human disease are; *Amblyomma americanum* (the lone star tick) which transmits a Lyme-like disease called STARI and can cause a red meat allergy; *Dermacentor variabilis* (American dog tick); and *Dermacentor andersoni* (wood tick).

TICK HABITAT

Tick Habitat Many people think ticks are only present in the woods. However, ticks can be found in many areas.

- Where woods/fields meet lawn
- Wooded areas
- Tall brush/grass
- Under leaves*
- Very small numbers on cut/raked lawns or sports fields
- Under ground cover (plants) in yard *
- Around stone walls and woodpiles where mice & other small mammals live



Lyme Disease Association, Inc. (LDA)

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