

FAST FACTS

- Ticks are more closely related to spiders and scorpions than insects.
- There are two main types of ticks: hard and soft.
- Hard ticks are found in the woods.
- Soft ticks have tough, leathery skin. They can be found in caves, cabins and on birds.
- Ticks get onto pets and people by jumping.

General Information

Blacklegged ticks (Deer Ticks) get their name because they have coloring similar to deer. They are found in the Northeastern, Southeastern, and Midwestern United States.

Size	1/8"	Common Name	Blacklegged (Deer) Tick
Shape	Flat, broad, oval	Kingdom	Animalia
Color	Dark brown to black	Phylum	Arthropoda
Legs	8	Class	Arachnida
Wings	No	Order	Acari
Antenna	No	Family	Ixodidae
		Genus Species	Ixodes scapularis

Diet

Blacklegged ticks feed on the blood of white-tailed deer, which is one of the reasons why they are sometimes called deer ticks.

Habitat

Blacklegged ticks prefer to hide in grass and shrubs.

Impact

Blacklegged ticks can carry the bacteria which causes **Lyme Disease** and **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**. Because ticks in the nymph stage are often hard to detect.

Preventing tick bites

- * Wear light colored clothing when you are outside. This will help you to spot the ticks before they attach themselves to your skin.
- * Tuck your pant legs into your socks.
- * After you spend time outside, be sure to check yourself for ticks. Ask someone to look through your hair to see if they fell onto your head and check your back, crooks in elbows and knees, etc.. Make sure you check your legs and arms very carefully.

To learn more about this and other pests, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/research.html>