



Scabies Treatment

Scabies is a skin condition caused by a tiny bug that digs into the skin and causes an itchy rash. Scabies can pass easily from person to person through clothing, linens, and from contact with other people who have scabies. **If you have scabies, everyone you live with should be treated whether or not they have an itchy rash. Everyone should treat at the same time.**

What to do:

- Apply the prescribed medication Elimite (permethrin 5%) cream from neck down. Be sure to apply the medication between fingers and toes, in the armpits, around the waist, and in private areas, since scabies like to live in damp or wet areas. Wash off the medication 8-14 hours later. Patients usually apply the medication at night and wash it off the next morning.
- Wash all recently worn clothes, linens, and towels in a washing machine, using the hottest water possible. After washing, dry everything in a dryer, using the hot setting.
- If you cannot wash something in a washing machine and then dry it in a dryer, take it to a dry cleaner or seal it in plastic bag for at least 72 hours.
- Items that have not touched your skin for more than 1 week generally do not need washing. If you are not sure whether you wore clothing or used an item within the past week, be sure to wash and dry it.
- Vacuum carpeting, area rugs, and all upholstered furniture.
- **Repeat** the treatment 1 week later.
- Pets do not need treatment.

Itching may continue for up to 6 weeks after treatment.