

Fast Facts

Scabies

- Caused by a microscopic, eight-legged mite (*Sarcoptes scabiei*)
- Female mite burrows just beneath the skin, making a tunnel where it deposits eggs. Eventually, the eggs hatch, and the larvae work their way to the surface of your skin. Once they mature, they can spread to other parts of your body or to others
- Close physical contact and, in some cases, sharing clothing or bedding can result in the mites spreading to others
- If you've had scabies before, symptoms can develop within a few days of exposure
- If you've never been infected, it can take up to six weeks for them to begin
- Can still spread scabies even if you don't have any symptoms

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<p>-Itching (severe and usually worse at night)</p> <p>-Thin, irregular burrow tracks made of tiny blisters or bumps on the skin</p> <p>-Burrows can appear anywhere (ex. between the fingers, in the armpits, around the waist, along the insides of the wrists, on the inner elbows, on the soles of the feet, around the breasts, around the male genital area, on the buttocks, and on the knees)</p> <p><i>For infants and young children:</i></p> <p>-Burrows show up on the scalp, palms of the hands, and sole of the feet</p>	<p>Medicine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Permethrin cream -Ivermectin (oral medicine for those who don't respond to other treatments, those with weakened immune systems, or those with crusted scabies) -Crotamiton cream or lotion (not as effective) <p><i>Home Remedies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Soaking in cool water or an oatmeal bath -Apply a cool, wet washcloth to irritated areas -Apply soothing lotion, like calamine lotion -Over-the-counter antihistamines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wash all clothes, towels, and bedding used within three days before beginning treatment in hot, soapy water and dry with high heat -For items you can't wash at home, have them dry-cleaned or place items in a sealed plastic bag for a couple of weeks

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