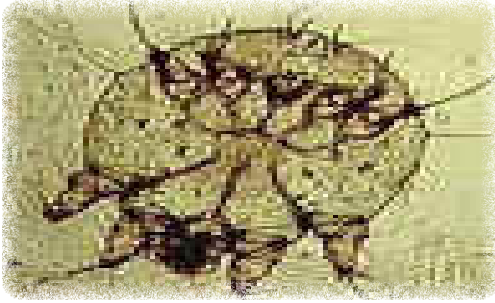




# Scabies



**S**cabies is a skin condition caused by a tiny mite called *Scarcoptes scabiei*. The female mite burrows into the skin and lays eggs. These eggs hatch many days later, which continues the cycle of this condition. The incubation period can be as long as 5 weeks before symptoms occur.

## **HOW DID I GET SCABIES?**

Scabies is usually contracted from person to person contact, especially sexual, or through sharing a bed, sleeping bag or upholstered furniture that is infested with the mites.

## **WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?**

Itching is the most common symptom, especially at night or after bathing. Small rashes are most commonly located on the hands, arms, feet, waistline, buttocks, and genitals.

## **WHAT TREATMENT SHOULD I FOLLOW?**

1. Near bedtime apply Permethrin (Acticin, Elimite) thoroughly, from nape of neck to toes, making sure to include the spaces between the toes and fingers, bottoms of feet, behind the ears, beneath the scrotum, navel, and the area inside the buttock folds—not inside body cavities.
2. Trim finger and toe nails and apply lotion under ALL nails with nail file or an orange stick.
3. Wash off all lotion in 8-14 hours in shower.
4. In morning, launder all bed linens. Linens that cannot be washed should be bagged and not used for at least 2-3 days.
5. Vacuum rugs and upholstered furniture. Do not use potentially infested upholstered furniture for 2-3 days.

## **USUALLY 1 TREATMENT WILL SUFFICE!!**

The itch may persist for 2-4 weeks. Your health clinician may recommend an antihistamine to help control the itching. If there is evidence of living mites after 14 days, return to Health Services as you MAY need to be retreated.

**CONTACT HEALTH SERVICES IF YOU HAVE ANY  
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.**



## **HEALTH SERVICES**

(603)862-2856 (during hours of operation)|(603) 862-1530 (after hours)

[www.unh.edu/health-services](http://www.unh.edu/health-services)