

Treating yourself and your whānau

See your general practice or community pharmacy for advice and treatment at reduced cost for children and their families.

How to apply scabies cream or lotion

- Treat everyone in the house at the same time before bed, even if not itchy.
- Apply permethrin cream or lotion over all your skin. If you can't get help applying cream to your back, talk to your healthcare provider about other treatment options.
- Use enough cream or lotion to cover skin fully. Ensure enough cream or lotion for everyone in the house, and for the repeat treatment in 7 days.
 - Each treatment for an adult-sized person needs one or two bottles if they are larger.
 - Children 5-12 years; half to one bottle.
 - Children 2-5 years; quarter of a bottle.
 - For a child under 2 years; less than a quarter of a bottle.

BEFORE YOU GO TO BED - DAY 1

- Apply cream or lotion all over your skin, avoiding your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Start with your face, scalp, ears and neck, then your chest, arms and legs, including armpits, belly button, feet, toes and toenails.
- Get help to cover hard-to-reach areas like your back.
- Wash your hands, apply cream or lotion to your genital skin and between the buttocks, wash your hands again and then reapply to hands, wrists, between your fingers and under nails. Reapply if hands washed overnight.
- Leave cream overnight for 8 to 12 hours.



THE NEXT DAY

- Wash cream off. Put on clean clothes not worn for 4 days.
- Treat clothing and household items used in the last 4 days.
- See overleaf – Treat household items to stop scabies coming back.



7 DAYS LATER

- Repeat treatment exactly as Day 1 to kill newly hatched eggs and make sure scabies doesn't come back.
- Re-treat clothes and household items.



10 TO 14 DAYS LATER

- Check all household members for new itchy spots or rash.
- If new spots appear, seek advice from your healthcare provider.

Other information

If you are unable to apply cream or lotion as described, talk to your healthcare provider about other treatment like tablets. For more information, visit healthnz.govt.nz/scabies

Treat household items and stop scabies coming back

Scabies mites and eggs can live off the body for several days. After each personal treatment, clean clothing, bedding and household items to stop scabies coming back.

DAY 1:

Personal treatment for everyone at home. Apply cream or lotion to all your skin and leave overnight.

Follow your healthcare provider's instructions if you are taking tablets.
See overleaf - Treating yourself and your whānau.

THE NEXT DAY

After personal treatment, treat sheets, pillowcases, duvet covers, towels, facecloths, soft toys and clothing used in the last 4 days.

Choose one of the following methods to kill the mites and their eggs.



Hot wash cycle
over 50°C
for more than
10 minutes



Put dry items in
the dryer on
HOT for at least
10 minutes



Freeze for at
least 5 hours
(could be
overnight)



Seal in a
plastic bag for
4 days

DAYS 2 TO 5:

Clean carpets, soft furnishings and car seats (adult and child).
Vacuum each day for 4 days.



Car seats



Give removable
coverings
a hot wash



Vacuum clean
or wipe surfaces



Children's car
seats can be
sealed in a plastic
bag for 4 days

DAYS 8 TO 10:

After your second personal treatment on day 7, repeat the treatment of clothing and household items exactly as before.