

# Indiana Tick Identification Card



## Lyme disease tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)

- Transmits Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis, *Borrelia miyamotoi* & Powassan encephalitis
- Widely distributed in the upper midwestern & northeastern U.S.
- Immatures active late spring-early summer, adult females active early spring and again in late summer.



## American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)

- Transmits Rocky Mountain spotted fever & tularemia
- Widely distributed east of the Rocky Mountains & areas on the Pacific Coast
- Adult females most likely to bite humans and are active spring-summer



## Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)

- Transmits ehrlichiosis, tularemia, Heartland virus & Southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI)
- Widely distributed in the southeastern & eastern U.S.
- Immatures and adults are active spring-summer

NOTE: ticks are not to scale

# Indiana Ticks: Distribution and Prevention

## Preventing Tick Bites



-  Lyme disease tick
-  American dog tick/  
lone star tick

- Avoid tick habitat during peak tick season
- Wear light colored long sleeve shirt & long pants
- Apply approved repellent containing DEET or permethrin
- After visiting a tick habitat, conduct a thorough check of clothes & body, especially head, underarm & groin

Map based on:

[https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/geographic\\_distribution.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/geographic_distribution.html)

## Tick Removal

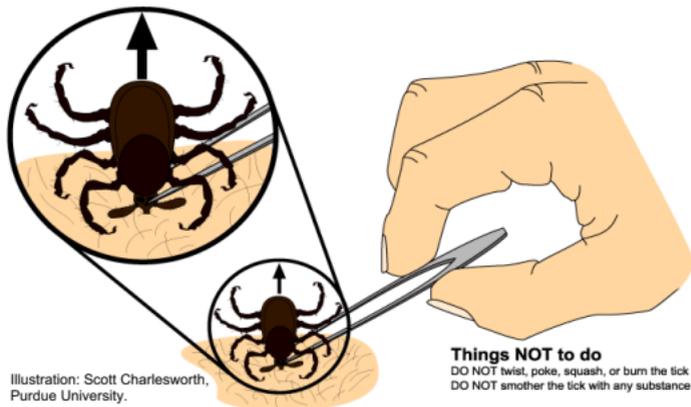


Illustration: Scott Charlesworth,  
Purdue University.

**Things NOT to do**  
DO NOT twist, poke, squash, or burn the tick  
DO NOT smother the tick with any substance

- Use a pair of fine-tipped tweezers
- Place the ends of the tweezers around the base of the mouthparts where they enter the skin
- Apply gentle pressure - pull the tick upwards slowly and steadily until it releases its hold
- Dispose of the tick in a sealable bag in the trash *outside* your home

For more information:

<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publichealth/insects/tick.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/>

<https://tickinsiders.org>