Parents and caregivers should be careful when using lice control products. These are pesticides, and contain chemicals that may be harmful, especially if the product is not used properly.

Before using lice control products:

- Contact your health care provider for treatment advice.
- Read the product label first! The label provides important information about how much of the product to use and how often.
- Make sure you are using the correct product. Some products are for people; others just for bedding, furniture and carpets.

When using lice control products:

- Wear gloves to prevent the product from coming into contact with skin.
- Do not use the product in the bath or shower.
- Wash hair in a sink with head tilted back. Protect eyes by covering with a hand or towel.
- Do not treat more often than recommended on the label. Do not reapply sooner, use more or keep it on longer than advised.
- If lice still exist, contact your health care provider for further treatment advice.

To avoid use of lice control products, follow these tips:

- The #1 non-chemical treatment is “combing, combing, combing.” There are specially designed metal combs available to remove lice and eggs from the hair.
- Vacuum any areas or items (e.g. cars, furniture, and bedding) that may have been in contact with the infected person. Discard the vacuum bag after use.
- Prevent reinfestation:
  - Discourage children from sharing hats, scarves, combs, and brushes.
  - Wash bed linen and clothing recently worn by infected people in hot water and then use a hot dryer.
  - Routinely check your child’s hair until the infestation is gone.

In a poison emergency or for more poison information:

health.ny.gov