

How to Kill Ticks Without Burning Them

Two Methods: [Submerging Tick In Alcohol](#) [Submerging Tick in Baby or Mineral Oil](#)

Burning a tick chars its body. If you need the tick for future identification and medical treatment of the host (you, your family member or friend) the tick was feasting on, then try one of these other tick killing options. The following methods use common liquids found in the home - rubbing alcohol and baby or mineral oil. Then, if needed, remember to take the host with the tick specimen to the doctor.

Method
1

Submerging Tick In Alcohol

- 1 Sterilize tick attachment site with alcohol on a cotton ball.**
- 2 Remove tick with tweezers:** hold the tick by its head with tweezers and gently pull.
- 3 Place tick on white paper and cover with jar.**
- 4 Again, sterilize the tick attachment site with alcohol on cotton ball**
- 5 Observe/identify the tick with a magnifying glass.**
- 6 When done observing/identifying the tick place it in the jar.**
- 7 Cover tick with alcohol and seal the jar with its lid.**
- 8 Create a label identifying:** the tick; the host person; the body part of the host person where the tick was attached; and the date it was discovered and preserved.
- 9 If the host person goes to the doctor, bring the tick specimen along.**

Method
2

Submerging Tick in Baby or Mineral Oil

- 1 Sterilize tick attachment site with alcohol on a cotton ball.**
- 2 Remove tick with tweezers:** hold the tick by its head with tweezers and gently pull.
- 3 Place tick on white paper and cover with jar.**
- 4 Again, sterilize the tick attachment site with alcohol on cotton ball.**
- 5 Observe/identify the tick with a magnifying glass.**

When done observing/identifying the tick place it in the jar.

6**7** Cover tick with baby or mineral oil and seal the jar with its lid.**8** Create a label identifying: the tick; the host person; the body part of the host person where the tick was attached; and the date it was discovered and preserved.**9** If the host person goes to the doctor, bring the tick specimen along.

Community Q&A

I found a female adult tick behind my ear and it was not attached. I threw it off, my boyfriend picked it up and squeezed it between his fingers. Is it dead?

wikiHow
Contributor

If you heard a crunch, you can be sure that the tick is dead. Otherwise, it will be very hard to tell if it is truly dead without finding it.

Flag as duplicate

Not Helpful 0 Helpful 0

Can a deer tick be squashed

wikiHow
Contributor

Yes. It is recommended that you crush them with the fingernail. They will not get up from that.

Flag as duplicate

Not Helpful 0 Helpful 0

Tips

- Do not flush a tick down the toilet. Water does not readily kill a tick, plus you would lose the specimen. The specimen may be needed for future identification and medical treatment of the host.
- Placing a tick between two pieces of tape will allow for future identification of the tick, but this method does not necessarily kill a tick. They may live for a long time stuck between two layers of tape, possibly years.

Warnings

- Alcohol is flammable meaning it burns...so **do not** have a flame nearby while working with alcohol. The air above the alcohol may ignite which can be frightening.

Things You'll Need

- Rubbing alcohol
- Baby or mineral oil (for that method)
- Cotton balls
- Small jar with lid
- Tweezers
- White paper
- Magnifying glass
- A label.