



Getting the most from your **Tick Treatment**

What to expect from this application and how you can achieve the best results possible!

Ticks are the largest member of the mite family and a cousin of the modern spider; and when conditions allow, these tenacious arachnids can infest your home by the thousands.

Most ticks develop in four basic stages: Egg, larva, nymph and adult. Upon hatching, the larvae begin seeking their first blood meal by crawling up walls, shrubs, or tall grass, and latching onto a suitable host. Because of their size (which is about as small as a period on this page), they are difficult to detect during this first stage.

After feeding, ticks molt in a secure hiding place; usually at carpet edges or under couch cushions, and especially by areas your pets frequents. After emerging as a nymph, they again repeat the process of 'climb, feed, and molt' before they finally emerging as an adult and are ready to feed and lay eggs.

The good news is that ticks die after laying their eggs. The bad news? They lay up to 5,000 of them, which start the whole cycle over again! But don't worry, your Dean's technician is well-trained and has a number of tools to help keep these pests at bay. Just remember that because ticks can reproduce in such great numbers, *it will take time to achieve full control*. Also, because they are closely related to pet care, your role as pet-owner is crucial, and a measure of cooperation will be required in and around the home.



Your Role in Gaining Control... Your Assistance in the Following Areas is Greatly Appreciated!

1 Get Your Pet on a Topical Solution... Quickly!

This step can not be over-emphasized. Many find Frontline or Advantix to be effective, but whichever you choose, be sure to start it within 48 hours of our treatment. Follow label directions and reapply as needed.

2 Inspect Your Home and Pet Daily

Check your pet daily and look carefully for ticks on the walls that may be waiting to latch onto it. Using tissue or tweezers, drop any ticks into a cup of alcohol. This reduces the number of ticks and allows us to monitor your progress. Also, be sure to wash any pet bedding often (and in hot water) until the problem is resolved. Remember, it takes only one female to lay thousands of eggs.

3 Vacuum, Vacuum, Vacuum! (Then Vacuum Again)

In addition to all carpeting, your vacuuming should include corners and edges of hardwood and tile floors and all upholstered furniture—*especially beneath the cushions*. This is one of the most common areas a tick will lay her egg-mass and is often overlooked. This should be done daily for the first week after treatment. Be sure to seal and discard the vacuum bag.

4 Reduce Tick "Hot Spots" Inside and Out

Trimming landscaping and reducing tall grass reduces the natural habitat for both ticks and any potential hosts such as rabbits and rodents. If such areas are not addressed you may continue to have problems. Also, by caulking cracks found *inside the home*—such as those by baseboards and under window sills—you reduce the secluded areas in which ticks prefer to breed. Less breeding means less ticks!

