

# Michigan's Five Most Common Ticks

Ticks are significant carriers of pathogens that cause human and animal disease. Listed here is a ranked order of the ticks most likely to bite humans in Michigan.



## 1. American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)

**Distribution:** Widespread throughout Michigan forests and grassy areas  
**Key Facts:** These ticks are active from early May-November, and will bite both humans and companion animals.

**Diseases:** Diseases associated with the American dog tick are rare in Michigan, but may include [Rocky Mountain spotted fever](#) and [tularemia](#).



## 2. Blacklegged tick

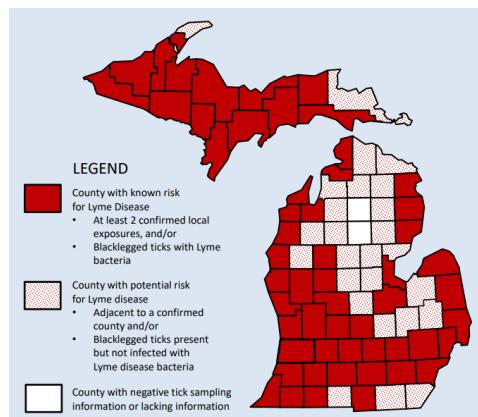
(*Ixodes scapularis*)

**Distribution:** Emerging in Michigan, see map at right

**Key Facts:** Found on low forest vegetation, often along human and animal trails.

**Diseases:** [Lyme disease](#) is the most common tick-borne disease in Michigan. Other rare diseases include: [anaplasmosis](#), [babesiosis](#), [deer-tick virus](#), and [ehrlichiosis](#).

[Click here for a larger map](#)



## 3. Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)

**Distribution:** Occasionally found in wooded and grassy areas across the state

**Key Facts:** An aggressive biter of humans and companion animals, adult females have distinctive "Lone Star" mark

**Diseases:** [Ehrlichiosis](#), [tularemia](#), [Alpha-gal syndrome](#)



## 4. Woodchuck tick (*Ixodes cookei*)

**Distribution:** Found most commonly on pets throughout Michigan

**Key Facts:** Usually found near dens of skunks and woodchucks, will bite companion animals near animal dens and occasionally humans

**Diseases:** [Powassan encephalitis](#)



## 5. Brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)

**Distribution:** Occasionally found in Michigan.

**Key Facts:** can uniquely survive and breed in indoor environments, has been associated with kennel, shelter, and breeding facilities. Good hygiene practices can prevent indoor infestations.

**Diseases:** [Rocky mountain spotted fever](#), [canine babesiosis](#), [canine ehrlichiosis](#)

## Tick Bite and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention

- Use insect repellents containing no more than 30 percent DEET.
- Use repellents that contain permethrin on clothing.
- After spending time outdoors, check your skin and clothes for ticks.
- See your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of fever, rash, body aches or fatigue.