
How is Poison Ivy Treated?

- If contact is suspected, wash exposed areas with strong soap and water. Keep hands away from face and eyes.
- Many over-the-counter drugs are available to lessen the symptoms. The most helpful are lotions and gels (Rhuligel and Caladryl). Avoid heavy creams that do not allow crusts to form.
- Benadryl 25 mg every 4 to 6 hours is helpful for itching. This can cause drowsiness but is also available in a lotion and spray for topical use.
- Avoid hot baths. Cool baking soda baths are soothing. Use non-detergent soaps such as Keri, Neutrogena, or Lowilla.
- In severe cases, corticosteroids are given orally or by injection. These are available through a physician by prescription only.



Mission Statement

The Pat Walker Health Center, University Health Services provides professional and comprehensive medical care, mental health care, health education, and health promotion for a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. We, the University Health Services Staff of the Pat Walker Health Center, have a commitment to physical, mental, spiritual, social, and emotional health, the highest standards of quality, and appreciation of the value of each individual. Through these endeavors we support the educational mission of the University of Arkansas and the growth of each individual.

Pat Walker Health Center University Health Services

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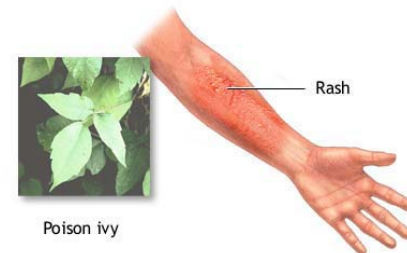


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POISON IVY



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What is Poison Ivy Dermatitis?

Poison ivy dermatitis is an allergic response to the resin found in poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. Since they contain the same resin, the symptoms and treatments are identical for all three plants.

How Is It Contracted?

Skin irritation develops soon after exposures to the oleoresin found in the leaves, stems, and dry twigs of the plants. The resin is spread to different parts of the body by the hands. The resin can be carried on the clothing, shoes, and tools, and pets for several days.



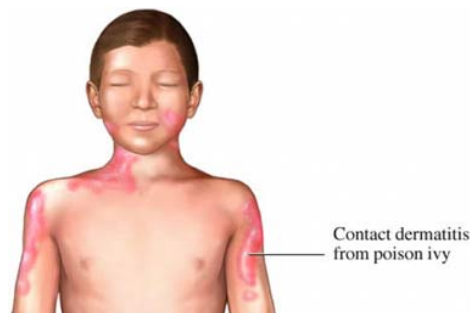
Western Poison Oak (*Rhus diversiloba*)

Grows in shrub and sometimes vine form only in California and parts of adjacent states. It is sometimes called poison ivy or yera. The leaves always consist of three leaflets.

What are the Symptoms?

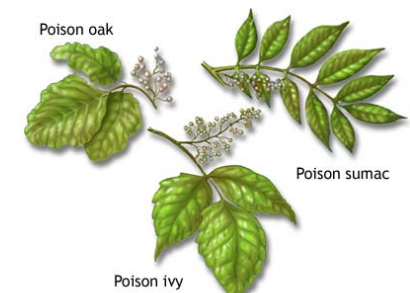
1. A raised red rash associated with burning and itching develops from 12 to 36 hours after exposure. This is often seen in streaks or lines.
2. Blisters soon form and weep a watery substance. **This liquid will not spread the rash nor is it contagious to others!**
3. Redness and swelling continue during blister formation.
4. A crust forms after the blisters break and the rash gradually fades and disappears.
5. The duration of the rash can be anywhere from 5 days to one month depending in the concentration of the rash and degree of sensitivity.

What Poison Ivy Looks Like On the Body:



Common Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*)

Grows as a small plant, a vine or a shrub everywhere in the United States except in California and the parts of adjacent states. Eastern oak-leaf poison ivy is one of its varieties. Its leaves always consist of three glossy leaflets. Poison ivy is also known as three-leaf ivy, poison creeper, climbing sumac, poison oak, markweed, picry, and mercury.



Poison Sumac (*Rhus vernix*)

Grows as a woody shrub or small tree, five to twenty-five feet tall, mostly in the eastern third of the United States. Also known as swamp sumac, poison elder, poison ash, poison dogwood, and thunderwood.

