

A **minor burn** is limited to an area no larger than 3 inches in diameter. There may be redness, swelling blisters and some pain. To treat a minor burn that doesn't require emergency care:



1. **Cool the burn.** Hold the burned area under cool (not cold) running water or apply a cool, wet compress until the pain eases.
2. **Remove tight items.** Take off jewelry, including rings, or any other tight items that are on or near the burned area.
3. **Don't break blisters.** If a blister breaks, clean the area with water. Apply an antibiotic ointment.
4. **Apply burn ointment** or spray, if available in the first aid kit.
5. **Bandage the burn.** Cover the burn with a sterile gauze bandage (not fluffy cotton). Wrap it loosely to avoid putting pressure on burned skin.

For **major burns** that are deep, larger than 3 inches in diameter or cover the hands, feet, face, groin, buttocks or a major joint, call 911 (or emergency services) or seek immediate medical care. Until emergency help arrives, there are some first aid tips that can assist a person with a major burn injury.

1. **Protect from further harm.** If you can do so safely, make sure the injured person is not in contact with the source of the burn.
2. **Remove tight items.** Take off jewelry, belts and other tight items, especially from around burned areas and the neck. Do not remove clothing that has melted or become stuck to burned skin.
3. **Cover the area of the burn.** Use a cool, moist bandage or a clean cloth.
4. **Elevate the burned area.** Raise the wound above heart level, if possible.
5. **Watch for signs of shock.** Signs and symptoms include fainting, pale complexion or breathing in a notably shallow fashion

*The information provided in this safety topic is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice or formal first aid training.*

A **chemical burn** can be caused by exposure to many substances like strong acids, cleaning agents and gasoline. Typically, a worker is aware of the cause of the chemical burn, but sometimes the pain and redness may not develop until sometime later after the exposure.



Before treating a chemical burn, **remove the cause of the burn**. Flush the chemical off the skin with cool running water for at least 10 minutes. For dry chemicals, safely brush off any remaining material before flushing.



An **electrical burn** can occur as a result of an electrical shock, depending on factors like the type of current, how high the voltage is, how the current traveled through the body and the person's overall health.

- Don't touch the victim if they are still in contact with the electrical current.
- Minor electrical burns can be treated as you would other minor burns.

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