

Children's burns

Keeping our mob healthy

When the skin is burnt, how quick it heals and how the doctor will help depends on:

- How big the burn is
- Where the burn is on the body
- How deep the burn is. It takes the doctor 3-4 days to find out.

The doctor needs to know how deep the burn is to decide what treatment is best for your child.

It is very important to find out how deep the burn is and this takes time.

Children can get very sick so you need to see a doctor quickly.



3 types of burns

1. Not deep (Superficial)

When the top layer of skin is burnt, like sunburn.

The burn is red, no blisters but hurts. The burn heals quick 3 – 6 days and usually no scar.

2. Deep burn (Partial thickness)

2 layers of skin are burnt. The Burn can blister and can be wet, oozy and red in colour.

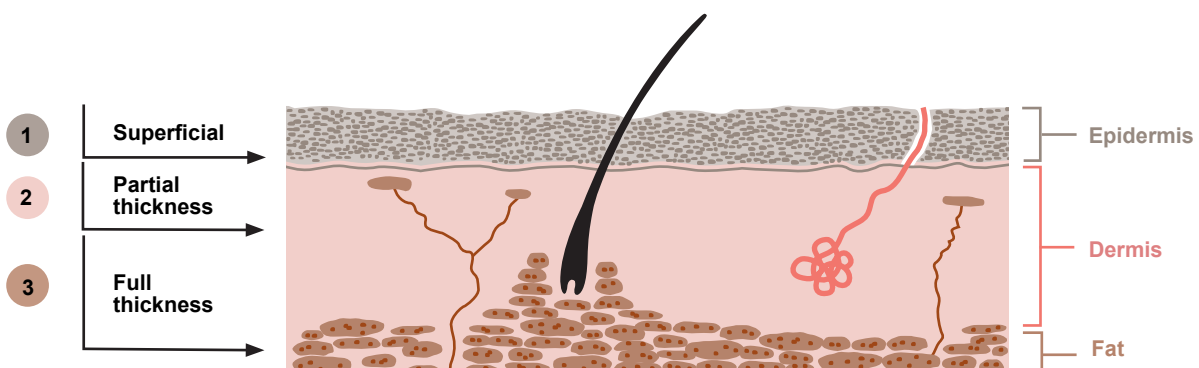
Your child might need surgery to take away the burnt skin and help heal the wound.

There may be a scar. It takes more than 2 weeks to heal.

3. Very deep burn (3rd degree or full thickness)

Layers of skin are hurt. It is very deep but doesn't hurt too much because the nerves have been damaged. The burn is dry and white in colour. The burn can take a long time to heal more than 3 weeks.

Your child may need surgery to take away the dead skin and put new skin on the wound. This is called a skin graft and it will help the burn heal faster and the scar won't be as bad.



Skin grafts

A doctor will tell you if your child needs a skin graft. During surgery the doctor takes a layer of skin from an unburned part of the body, this will heal quickly. The new skin is put on top of the burn wound, it will grow over the wound to heal.

Dressings and bandages

Your child's burn will be bandaged to keep it clean and to stop infection. Bandages need to be kept clean and dry.

The bandages will be changed by the nurses. Changing bandages can be painful because the burn is sore.

Don't take off the bandages without talking to a nurse or doctor.

Pain medicine can help.



Infection

Infection in burns can be very serious.

Look at your child to check.

- If you see a rash, redness, swelling or they are hurting more - **go to the hospital.**
- If you think they have a temperature under 35.5°C or over 38°C or are hot to touch - **go to the hospital.**
- If they are not eating, have trouble sleeping or no energy - **go to the hospital.**
- If you see ooze (wetness) from the wound or if there is a bad smell from the burn wound - **go to the hospital.**



If any of these happen go to the closest hospital it's very important.



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