

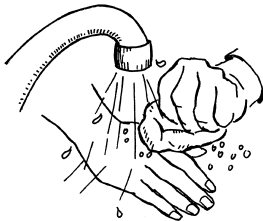
First Aid For Minor Wounds

Even if you suffer a small puncture wound or laceration, you may need a tetanus booster shot. If it's been several years since your last booster shot, check with your doctor.

A minor wound is one that is small or on the surface of the skin. It may not bleed or, if it does, the bleeding stops quickly.

There are Four Kinds of Minor Wounds:

1. **cuts**, which can be caused by any smooth, sharp object such as a knife or a piece of broken glass
2. **lacerations**, which are cuts with jagged edges. They can be caused by sharp objects such as serrated knives or machinery.
3. **abrasions or scrapes**, which occur when the skin is dragged across a rough surface, such as concrete
4. **punctures**, which are holes in the body. They can be caused by a stick, metal bit, staple, nail or any other object that pierces the skin and enters the body.



Treating Cuts and Scrapes

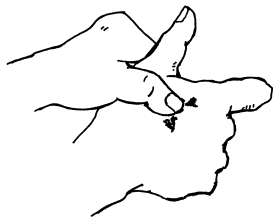
- Wash the wound with mild soap and water.
- Rinse with clean water.
- Let the wound air dry.
- Cover the wound with a sterile bandage.



Treating Lacerations and Punctures

Because these types of wounds are often caused by machinery or rusty objects, there is a danger of infection from debris left in the wound.

- Clean the wound and surrounding skin with mild soap and water.
- Apply pressure around a puncture wound to help it bleed and clear away any debris that may be trapped inside.
- Bandage a puncture wound lightly; bandage a laceration as you would a cut or scrape.



Remember, even a minor wound can become infected. If the area around the wound is red, tender or swollen after a few days, see your doctor.