

Iron Safety

Contact burns from hot clothes irons and hair irons (straighteners and curling wands) are a common cause of injury particularly with children under six years of age.

The majority of injuries occur from children pulling down hot irons from a table or ironing board or from children grabbing a hot hair iron left in the bathroom or bedroom.

These children's injuries are often so severe that they require medical treatment.

Types of burns

Burns are often categorised as first, second, or full thickness, depending on how badly the skin is damaged. Each of the injuries above can cause any of these three types of burns.

The type of burn and its cause will determine how the burn is treated.

All burns should be treated quickly to reduce the temperature of the burned area and reduce damage to the skin and underlying tissue.



First Aid for burns

if your child is scalded, **every second counts**. Cool the scald immediately in or under cool running water for 20 minutes and seek medical attention.



- Never use ice, oil or butter, soy sauce or ointments. These can damage the skin further.
- Keep the child warm with a clean blanket and comfort them.
- Seek medical advice for any burn bigger than a 20 cent piece.

In an emergency dial 000 for an ambulance.

Importance of First Aid

A burn can actually be less painful the further it burns into the skin. Imagine a cigarette burning down: the ash is the skin burning away. As the pain lessens, we assume that the burn or scald has stopped, but it hasn't.

By maintaining cold running water onto the injured area, you can limit the degree of the injury and prevent possible scarring and on-going medical attention.

Although some minor burns aren't cause for concern and can be safely treated at home, other more serious burns require medical care. Taking some simple precautions to make your home safer can prevent many burn injuries.



THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT INJURIES TO CHILDREN IS ADULT SUPERVISION!



Safety Products

There are several safety products available to protect children from injury.

IronSafe - for storage of a hot iron immediately after use.

Robin Hood Ironing Centre – for storage of ironing board and hot iron immediately after use.

Many similar products are available from leading hard-ware and baby supply



Safety Tips

There are steps a carer should take to avoid injuries to children from hot clothes irons and hair irons.

- Avoid using hot appliances when small children are around
- Do not allow children to use the appliance
- Always put the hot iron out of reach immediately after use
- Ensure the cords are out of reach

Clothes Irons

- Fold ironing board up and store properly immediately after use.
- Ensure that Ironing boards are stable when being used

Consider purchasing:

- a cordless iron - no cord to wrap around or worry about
- An iron with automatic shut-off or alert system if left idle for several minutes

Hair Irons

- Before each use always check the cord for any breakage or dampness
- Store your hair straightener in a cool, dry area
- Always set the temperature to the lowest setting that will still give you the results you like
- Be extra cautious to stay away from the bath tub, running shower, and sink while using the hair straightener
- After you are finished using the hair straightener, the device will remain extremely hot for some time. It is best to allow it to cool naturally away from reach of children

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