

Iron Safety



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

Most injuries occur when a child pulls down a hot clothes iron from a table or ironing board or when a child grabs a hot hair iron left unattended in the bathroom or bedroom.

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



Types of burns

Burns are described as first, second, or third degree, depending on how badly the skin is damaged. All three types of burns can be caused by a hot clothes iron or a hot hair iron.

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

All burns should be treated quickly to lower the temperature of the burned area and to 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

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Importance of First Aid

A burn can actually be less painful the further it burns into the skin. As the pain lessens, we assume that the burn or scald has stopped, but it hasn't.

The reason we keep running cold water on an injured area is to limit the degree of the injury. This should also prevent possible scarring and on-going medical attention.

Although some minor burns 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.

child safety is no accident

Safety Products

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

Iron Caddy/Guard - for storage of a hot iron immediately after use.

Ironing Centres – for storage of ironing board and hot iron immediately after use.

Many similar products are available from leading hardware and baby supply stores.



Infants and toddlers are curious and like to explore their environment – they may touch an iron because they do not realize it is HOT – they may pull on the electrical cord causing the iron to topple over onto them.



Safe Practices

These steps will help protect children from getting burnt by a hot clothes iron or hair iron.

- Avoid using hot appliances when small children are present.
- Do not allow children to use the appliance.
- Ensure the cords are out of the reach of children.
- Unplug the iron immediately after use and place the iron right away from children.
- Ironing on the floor or bed can be dangerous because this puts the hot iron within a child's reach.

Clothes Irons

- Fold ironing board up and store properly immediately after use.
- Ensure that the ironing board is stable when being used so it doesn't tip over.

Consider purchasing:

- a cordless iron - no cord to wrap around the iron or for a child to grab
- An iron with automatic shut-off or alert system if it is left idle for several minutes

Hair Irons (straighteners or curling wands)

- Before each use always check the cord for any breakage or dampness
- Store your hair straightener/curler in a cool, dry area
- Always set the temperature to the lowest setting that will still give you the results you want.
- Be extra careful to stay away from the bath tub, running shower, and the sink while using the hair straightener/curler
- After you are finished using the hair straightener/curler, the device will remain extremely hot for some time. Allow it to cool where children can't reach it.

For more information about burn prevention visit:

- Kids Health (Children's Hospital at Westmead)
kidshealth.schn.health.nsw.gov.au

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