

**Minor wound**: A minor wound, such as a scrape, means there is only a little bleeding and the wound is on the surface. Mild bleeding can always be stopped within 15 minutes by direct pressure to the wound.

- Put on disposable gloves.
- Use soap and water to clean the area thoroughly.
- Place a clean (sterile) dressing over the wound.
- Apply direct pressure to the site to control any blood flow.
- Remove the dressing, and apply antibiotic ointment after the blood stops.
- Apply a new dressing (gauze or gauze pad), and hold it with tape or use a band-aid.
- Dispose of gloves properly, and wash your hands with soap and water.

**Stitches**: It is difficult to judge sometimes when a wound may require stitches. A general rule is stitches are needed when the edges of the skin do not fall neatly together, for any wound that is more than an inch long, or for any wound that is deep. Stitches should be applied within the first few hours to eliminate the chances of infection and scarring.

**Major wound**: A major wound has severe bleeding, a deeply embedded object, or deep destruction of the tissue. Severe bleeding means you cannot slow or stop the blood after applying steady, direct pressure to the wound for 15 minutes.

- Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.
- Put on disposable gloves.
- Control bleeding: a) cover wound with dressing and press firmly against the wound; b) elevate the injured area above the level of the heart, if you suspect no broken bones; c) apply a pressure bandage over the dressing to keep pressure on the wound; d) if blood soaks through, do not remove blood-soaked bandages; add more pads and bandages to help absorb blood; and e) apply pressure and bandages to help absorb the blood.
- Monitor airway and breathing. Watch whether the victim is breathing faster or slower, changes in skin color, restlessness, and a look of anxiousness.
- Keep the victim from getting cold or overheated.
- Reassure, and help him to rest comfortably.
- Dispose of gloves properly, and wash hands with soap and water.
If there is a body part severed:
• Put on disposable gloves.
• Wrap the body part in sterile gauze or any clean material.
• Place the wrapped part in a bag, and put on ice.
• Do not put the bag on dry ice or in ice water.
• Make sure the body part follows the victim to the medical facility.

If there is an object in the wound:
• Put on disposable gloves.
• Do not remove the object.
• Use some sort of bulky dressing to stabilize the object and avoid further tissue damage.
• Dispose of gloves properly, and wash hands with soap and water.

Note: Always put on disposable gloves for any type of wound treatment to prevent infection. Tetanus is a threat for any type of wound injury. Make sure tetanus immunization is current (boosters are given every 5 to 10 years).