



Children's burns

Burns healing and treatment 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 bub.
- It is very important to find out how deep the burn is and this takes time.

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

There are 3 types of burns:

1. Not deep (superficial)

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.

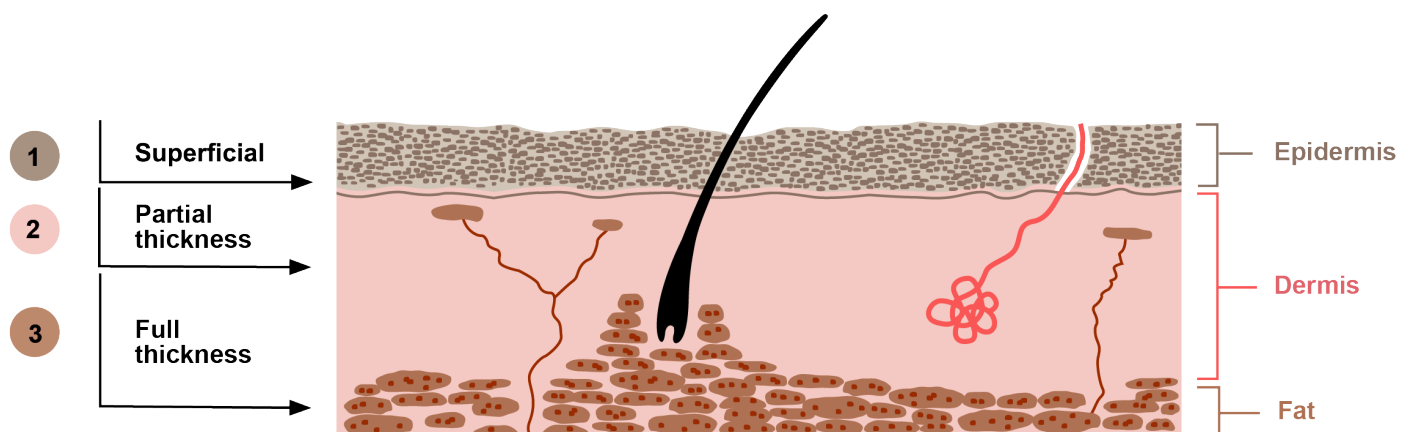
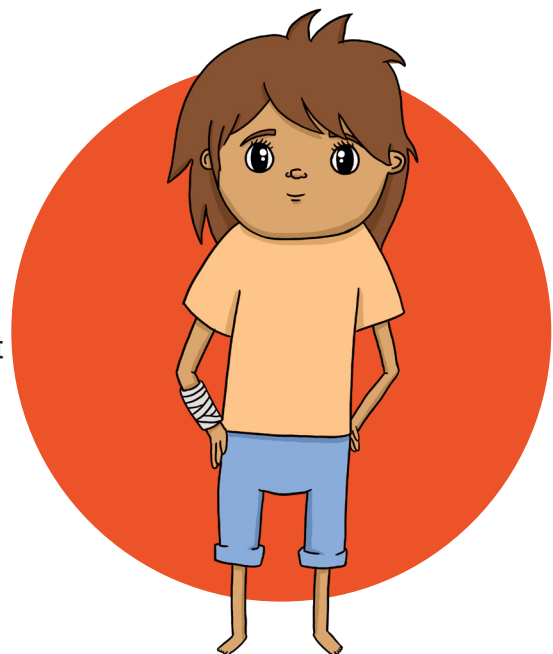
2. Deep burn (partial thickness)

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

Bub 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

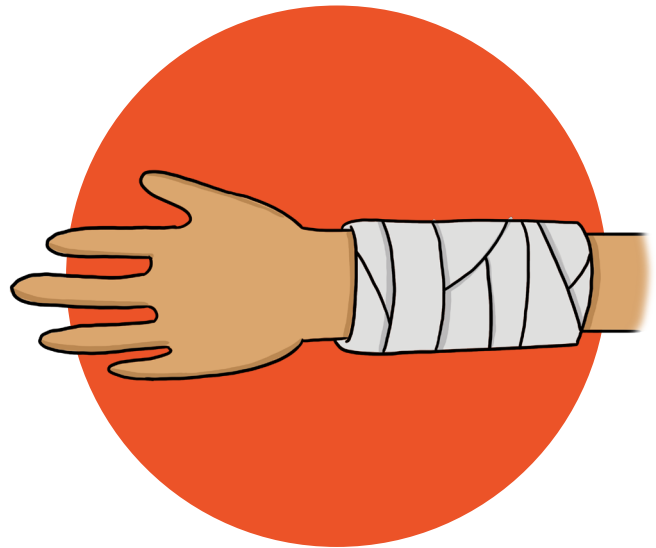
A doctor will let you know if bub needs a skin graft. During surgery the doctor takes a layer of skin from an unburned part of the body (this will heal quickly) the new skin is put on top of the burn wound, it will grow over the wound to heal.

Dressings and bandages

Bub's burn will be bandaged to keep it clean and to prevent infection. Bandages need to be kept clean and dry.

The bandages will be changed by the nurses, changing bandages may hurt a bit as the burn wound is sore.

- Don't take off the bandages without talking to a nurse or doctor.
- Pain relief like paracetamol(Panadol) or ibuprofen(Nurofen) can help.



Infection

Burn infection in can be very serious, bub will need to go to the hospital.

Watch bub closely for signs of infection:



A rash, redness, swelling or more pain



Temperature under 35.5° or over 38° or are hot to touch



Not eating, have trouble sleeping or no energy



Ooze (wetness) or a bad smell from the wound

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



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Produced by: Burns Unit / Social Work
Ref: 1390 © CAHS 2022

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