



How can you prevent infection?

Your skin protects you from your environment and germs. When you have a wound, or an opening on your skin, your risk for infection increases because that protection has been broken and you become vulnerable to bacteria and germs.

Wound infections may lead to hospitalizations, surgery and even amputations. It is important to know how to prevent an infection and what to look for if you develop signs or symptoms. With all wounds, time is of the essence. The faster you can identify and start treating a wound, the less risk you have of needing to be hospitalized or have surgery.

Infection Prevention Starts with YOU:

- Wash your hands from the wrists down with soap and water for 30 seconds.
 - Pay special attention to your nails and in between your fingers.
 - Try singing the Happy Birthday song twice to ensure that you spent enough time lathering and scrubbing.
- Only touch your wound dressing with clean, dry hands immediately following hand washing.
- Choose a clean, well-lit place for dressing changes.
- Keep your dressing supplies in a clean, closed container away from people, animals, and direct sunlight.
- Always keep your wound covered with a dressing to prevent dirt and bacteria from getting into the wound.

Signs and symptoms of an Infection:

- Warm or red skin around the wound
- A foul smell coming from the wound
- Yellow, green or cloudy pus or fluid draining from the wound
- Increased pain or tenderness around the wound
- Fever or chills
- Increased swelling around the wound

If you experience one or more of the above symptoms, please call your Woundtech clinician immediately during normal business hours.

Woundtech Clinician: _____

Phone Number: _____

After hours, please call urgent care or the emergency room to talk to a healthcare professional about whether or not you need to be seen.