

Wound Cleansing Pathway

Cleansing solutions should be at room temperature.

***Potable water** is water suitable to be ingested. For private water supplies where quality cannot be guaranteed, we would suggest using NaCl 0.9%.

****Surfactant solution** has specific activity to disrupt biofilm and reduce bioburden e.g. PHMB Polyhexanide and betaine

Acute Wound

E.g. surgical, wound present for less than 2 weeks

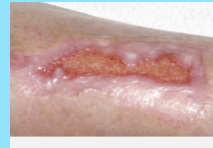


Hard-to-Heal/Chronic Wound

Present for more than 2 weeks



Is the wound bed healthy, clean, and granulating or epithelialising?
And showing signs of healing?



NO

Is the wound infected?
OR
Are there signs of biofilm present?
OR
Is there delayed healing?



YES

NO

YES

Is there debris such as dry skin, exudate or build up of products
on the wound edges or the surrounding skin?



NO

YES

No need to cleanse

Cleanse the wound, edges and surrounding skin to 20cm from the wound edge
OR the full limb if under bandaging with potable water* or saline solution
to remove debris, exudate and build up

Use a surfactant solution**
to cleanse and soak
to disrupt bioburden and
remove debris from wound
bed, edges and
surrounding skin

Consider debridement via mechanical, autolytic, enzymatic, biological or sharp processes
following local pathways and policies