

# THERMOPLASTIC / BITUMEN BURN CARD

Advice to Medical Professionals

## ASSESS

and stabilise patient - treat life-threatening conditions

## APPLY

First Aid  
(see reverse)

## CONSULT

appropriate  
Burn Specialist

## DOCUMENT

location and  
extent of injury



## Removal of Thermoplastic / Bitumen

- **DO NOT REMOVE THERMOPLASTIC/BITUMEN** – this should only be removed by an appropriately trained health care practitioner, sometimes in an operating theatre.
- **LARGE SIZE & FULL THICKNESS BURNS** – refer to specialist burn unit.
- **CIRCUMFERENTIAL BURNS** – Consult specialist burn unit. If hardened thermoplastic/bitumen is causing constriction, elevate limb. Burn specialist may advise to soften and/or split to prevent blood flow restriction.



## Eye Burns

- **IRRIGATE** as per First Aid (see reverse).
- **DO NOT REMOVE THERMOPLASTIC/BITUMEN.**
- **URGENT OPHTHALMOLOGICAL REFERRAL.**



## Caution

- **DO NOT** apply creams, lotions or ointments.
- **DO NOT** give any food or drink until cleared to do so by qualified medical personnel.

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## BURN FIRST AID once life threatening injuries have been treated

### PROTECT

**Protect** yourself and others from harm

### LEAVE

**Leave** the Thermoplastic/Bitumen on the wound – do not remove as this may cause more burns

### COOL

**Cool** the affected area with COOL RUNNING WATER for at least 60 minutes

### COVER

**Cover** the wound with plastic wrap or non-stick burn dressing

### SEEK

**Seek medical attention** after first aid as thermoplastic/bitumen burns can continue to burn if not appropriately treated



### Treatment:

- **Airway & Breathing** particularly for neck and facial burns. If not breathing first aider to initiate resuscitation.
- **Eyes:** Immediately flush eyes with generous amounts of cool water. Do not rub eyes.
- **Assess circulation** particularly for circumferential burns.
- **Skin:** Immediately wash affected area with generous amounts of cool water.
- **Ingestion:** If swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Wash out mouth thoroughly with water. Immediately contact the Poison Information Centre on 13 11 26 (Australia Wide) or a doctor.

**Keep the patient warm** especially when using cool water.

**Transfer** to a specialist burn unit as appropriate.



**CALL 000** if you are worried or  
(triple zero) the patient is unstable

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