

Prevention of Hair Straightener Burns

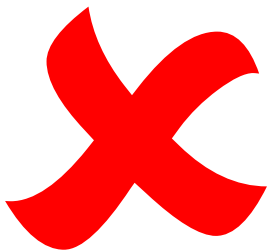
Factsheet

- Hair straighteners have become commonplace in many households and pose a significant risk to vulnerable populations groups such as children.
- Toddlers and children often imitate adults using products, including hair straighteners, without understanding the safety precautions associated with product use.
- Some hair straighteners reach temperatures up to 230°C; higher than the usual household iron. Even after being turned off, hair straighteners are still hot enough to cause contact burns to both children and adult skin in less than one second.
- Contact burns are among the top causes of burns for adults and children*
- Even the external casing of these devices can become hot enough to cause a deep burn.

*Data obtained from Burns Registry of Australia and New Zealand (BRANZ) 2020



- ✓ Do keep hair straighteners out of reach of children.
- ✓ Do switch off and remove straighteners from power source when finished using.
- ✓ Do use a heat proof protective pouch for storing hot straighteners.
- ✓ Do buy hair straighteners with safety lock features.
- ✓ Do be mindful of hands getting sweaty while using the appliance causing the handles to get slippery.



- ✗ Do not store hair straightener on the ground to cool.
- ✗ Do not leave children unattended even minutes after switching off the hair straightener.
- ✗ Do not leave hair straighteners unattended while connected to power.
- ✗ Do not use hair straighteners on the hair close to the scalp.



First Aid for Burns

If you, or someone you know is burnt, take the following actions:

1. Remove clothing and jewellery
2. Apply cool running water to the burn for **20 minutes** (effective up to 3 hours after injury)
Spraying water or alternating wet cloths can help if limited water
If no water available a hydrogel burn first aid dressing can be used until water available. Caution use on large %TBSA due to hypothermia
Do NOT use ice, butter, creams or alternatives
3. Cover burn with clean cloth and keep the patient warm
4. Seek medical attention for any burn bigger than 3cm; or with blisters; or if any other concerns