

Wound Management Products

3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing

1. **Does 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing contain natural rubber latex?**

Neither the film nor the adhesive on the dressing contains any rubber latex. For more information, see our section on **Latex Information**.

2. **What is the adhesive used on 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing?**

The adhesive used is a hypoallergenic, single polymer acrylate adhesive.

3. **What is the shelf life of 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing?**

The shelf life for 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings catalogue number 1622W, 1623W, 1624W, 1626W, 1633 I.V. and 1635 I.V. is three years from the date of manufacture. The shelf life for dressings catalogue number 1627, 1628 and 1629 is five years from date of manufacture. The expiry date is printed on the envelope of each individual dressing.

4. **Can I write on 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings?**

This is not advisable, as the pen may puncture the dressing. Many sizes of 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing now come complete with a breathable tape label which is specially designed to record dressing change information.

5. **Is it safe to use chlorhexidine or iodophor skin disinfectants under 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings?**

Yes, dependent on the sensitivities of the patient, it is safe to use disinfectants on skin which is then covered with a 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing. However, if the patient is sensitive to the disinfecting agent, the dressing may exacerbate the problem.

6. **Do I need to remove 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings before sending the patient to x-ray?**

3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings are x-ray transparent so there is no need to remove them.

7. **What precautions should I take when using 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing on patients with fragile skin?**

When using a 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing on fragile skin, first ensure that the skin is clean before application. When removing the dressing, remove it slowly in the direction of hair growth. The adhesive bond may be reduced by carefully rubbing a cotton bud soaked in a citrus-based adhesive remover under the dressing.

8. **Can I use 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing over an infected wound?**

NO – 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing is contraindicated for use on infected wounds.

9. **Can I use 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing over a wound or site contaminated with MRSA?**

Yes, provided the wound / site is not infected, 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing may be used to cover it.

10. **Can I cut 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing?**

Yes, the dressing can be cut to fit awkward body areas such as elbows, heels and sacrum.

11. **Can I use 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing on surgical wounds?**

3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressings are frequently used to dress surgical incisions or laparoscopy wounds. Full haemostasis should be obtained before applying the dressing. The waterproof film dressing protects the wound from contamination and permits the patient to bathe or shower.

12. **Does the presence of wound exudate under the dressing increase the risk of wound infection?**

Wound exudate is a cocktail of proteins, enzymes and phagocytic cells, which usually provides a sound environment for wound healing. The pooling of exudate does not lead to a disposition for infection.

13. **What should I do if excess wound exudate pools under the 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing?**

If significant pooling of fluid under 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing occurs, this may lead to leakage and compromise adhesion. Should this occur a hydrocolloid dressing should be considered.

3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing

1. Can 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing be covered with another dressing?

Yes, ideally the cover should be a film dressing such as 3M™ Tegaderm™ Film Dressing or gauze and tape for highly exuding wounds.

2. Can 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing be used with a hydrocolloid dressing?

There is no reason why 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing cannot be used with a hydrocolloid or a foam dressing, but it is advisable to use a film dressing instead so that the combination cost is lower.

3. Can 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing be used on infected wounds?

Yes. Alginates are one of the few types of dressing which are recommended for use on clinically infected wounds.

4. Can 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing be used on diabetic wounds?

There are several different opinions regarding dressings for diabetic wounds. 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing can be used safely on these patients. However close monitoring should be maintained to ensure that the wound does not dry out excessively.

5. Can 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing be cut to size?

Yes, the dressing can be cut or folded to fit the wound.

6. Does it matter if 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing overlaps the wound edge?

There should be no damage to the skin if the dressing overlaps the wound margins, but it is more economical to fold or cut the dressing so that the whole surface area is used for maximum absorption.

7. What should I do if 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing sticks to the wound?

The dressing may be removed by gentle irrigation with saline to soften and loosen it.

8. Can 3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing be used as an odour absorber?

3M™ Tegagen™ Alginate Dressing can be used on malodorous wounds. Although it has no odour absorbing properties itself, it helps to deodorise the wound by removing debris and exudate.

3M Tegaserb™ Hydrocolloid Dressing

1. Can 3M Tegaserb™ Hydrocolloid Dressing be used on infected wounds?

If the wound is simply colonized, then yes, 3M Tegaserb™ Hydrocolloid Dressing is safe to use. However, if clinical infection is present, it is advisable to use a non-occlusive dressing, which can be changed frequently.

2. Can 3M Tegaserb™ Hydrocolloid Dressing be used on arterial ulcers?

Hydrocolloid dressings should be used with caution on arterial ulcers, as these patients are prone to rapidly developing clinical infection.

3. Does 3M Tegaserb™ Hydrocolloid Dressing cause sensitivities?

Because the rubber-like components in the dressing are synthetic, any problem with allergic reactions should be minimised.

4. Can 3M Tegaserb™ Hydrocolloid Dressing be cut to size or shape?

The square 3M Tegaserb™ Hydrocolloid Dressing can be cut, as with any other dressing. The oval dressing will lose its integrity if the film border is cut. However, the dressing can still be used effectively if the cut pieces are overlapped carefully.

5. Can 3M Tegaserb™ Hydrocolloid Dressing be used on diabetic patients?

Although some clinicians use hydrocolloid dressings on these wounds, we advise against it. Diabetic wounds need monitoring to ensure that they have not deteriorated and this is difficult with a hydrocolloid dressing in place.