

AGC Tool Box Safety Talk

CUTS AND SCRATCHES

INTRODUCTION

1. Review any accidents or “near accidents” from the past week.
2. Describe the hazards of the work as they relate to your project. Explain or show the SAFE way of doing the job.
3. Give the TOOL BOX SAFETY TALK

Minor cuts and scratches can become major problems if ignored. With any open wound, large or small, there is always the risk of infection. Take these steps to treat minor cuts and scratches:

- Stop the bleeding. Minor cuts and scrapes usually stop bleeding on their own. If they don't, apply gentle pressure with a clean cloth or bandage.
- Clean the wound by washing it with clear water. Clean the skin around the wound with soap and a soft washcloth. Try to keep soap out of the wound itself because soap can cause irritation.
- If debris remains embedded in a wound after cleaning, see your doctor.
- Apply a thin layer of an antibiotic cream or ointment such as Neosporin or Polysporin to help keep the surface moist. The products discourage infection and allow your body's healing process to close the wound.
- Cover the wound with a sterile bandage. Bandages can help keep the wound clean and keep harmful bacteria out. After the wound has healed enough to make infection unlikely, exposure to the air will speed healing.
- Watch for signs of infection. See your doctor if the wound isn't healing or if you notice any redness, drainage, warmth, or swelling.

