

Infants and burn injuries

- The skin of an infant is thin and prone to sunburn and injuries such as burns from hot liquids or flames.
- Though sunburns are preventable, these injuries are the most common type of burns in infants.
- Infants do not have the amount of pigment in their skin that adults have and therefore can not tolerate the same amount of time in the sun as adults do.
- Infants cannot move themselves out of the sun and do not possess the developmental skills to ask someone to take them out of the sun.
- Scalding burns are the most common burn injuries sustained by children not related to sun over-exposure.
- Scalding injuries are most commonly sustained in the kitchen, followed by the bathroom or area where bathing is performed.
- According to the American Burn Association, young children and people with disabilities are more at risk for sustaining burn injuries.
- Infants that have developed a pincer grasp are able to pick up small items and stick them in electrical sockets.
- Infants will pick up paper clips, bobby pins and safety pins and stick them in electrical sockets.
- As infants learn to crawl, their risk for injury or death associated with electrocution increases.
- Electrical devices such as TVs, radios and blow-dryers should not be used around bathtubs during bath time.
- Remember the external appearance of a burn injury does not reflect the actual tissue damage that may be inside the child's body.
- Infants with electrical burn injuries should always be evaluated by a physician.

- Electrocution injuries can be sustained by unsafe equipment that is utilized in the presence of an infant.
- Infants put things in their mouths; items such as electrical cords may cause death by electrocution.