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Noun 1. **medical dressing** - a cloth covering for a wound or sore



[Green box] **dressing**

- ↔ **bandage, patch** - a piece of soft material that covers and protects an injured part of the body
- ↔ **cloth covering** - a covering made of cloth
- ↔ **compress** - a cloth pad or dressing (with or without medication) applied firmly to some part of the body (to relieve discomfort or reduce fever)
- ↔ **cataplasm, poultice, plaster** - a medical dressing consisting of a soft heated mass of meal or clay that is spread on a cloth and applied to the skin to treat inflamed areas or improve circulation etc.
- ↔ **surgical dressing** - a loosely woven cotton dressing for incisions made during surgery

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# Dressing (medical)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **dressing** is a sterile pad or compress<sup>[1]</sup> applied to a **wound** to promote **healing** and protect the wound from further harm. A dressing is designed to be in direct contact with the wound, as distinguished from a **bandage**, which is most often used to hold a dressing in place. Many modern dressings are self-adhesive.

**Contents** [hide]

- 1 Medical uses
- 2 Types
  - 2.1 Passive products
  - 2.2 Interactive products
  - 2.3 Bioactive products
- 3 Usage of dressings
- 4 See also
- 5 References



An adhesive island dressing, in its original packaging (left) and on a person's wrist (right).

## Medical uses [ edit ]

A dressing can have a number of purposes, depending on the type, severity and position of the wound, although all purposes are focused towards promoting recovery and protecting from further harm. Key purposes of a dressing are:

- Stem **bleeding** – to help to seal the wound to expedite the **clotting** process;
- Protection from **infection** – to defend the wound against germs and mechanical damage;
- Absorb **exudate** – to soak up blood, plasma, and other fluids exuded from the wound, containing it/them in one place and preventing **maceration**;
- **Debride** the wound – to remove slough and foreign objects from the wound to expedite healing;
- Reduce **psychological stress** – to obscure a healing wound from the view of the patient and others.

Ultimately, the aim of a dressing is to promote **healing** of the wound by providing a sterile, breathable and moist environment that facilitates **granulation** and **epithelialization**. This will then reduce the risk of infection, help the wound heal more quickly, and reduce scarring.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Types [ edit ]

Historically, dressings were made of a piece of material, usually a **cloth**, but the use of cobwebs, dung, leaves and honey have also been described.





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sore with US and UK flags.

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sore

painful to the touch; tender: a sore arm; open wound

Not to be confused with:

soar – rise, fly, or glide without effort: The eagles soar high into the sky.

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sore (sôr) with a speaker icon.

adj. sor-er, sor-est

- 1. Painful to the touch; tender.
2. Feeling physical pain; hurting: sore all over.
3. Causing misery, sorrow, or distress; grievous: in sore need.
4. Causing embarrassment or irritation: a sore subject.
5. Full of distress; sorrowful.
6. Informal Angry; offended.

n.

- 1. An open skin lesion, wound, or ulcer.
2. A source of pain, distress, or irritation.

tr. v. sores, sor-ing, sores

To mutilate the legs or feet of (a horse) in order to induce a particular gait in the animal.

adv. Archaic

Sorely.

[Middle English, from Old English s̄ar.]

sore'ness n.

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## wound <sup>1</sup> (wōōnd)

*n.*  
1. An injury to an organism, especially one in which the skin or another external surface is torn, pierced, cut, or otherwise broken.  
2. An injury to the feelings.  
*v.* **wound·ed, wound·ing, wounds**  
*v.tr.*  
To inflict wounds or a wound on.  
*v.intr.*  
To inflict wounds or a wound: *harsh criticism that wounds.*

[Middle English, from Old English *wund*; see [wen-](#) in [Indo-European roots](#).]

**wound'ed·ly** *adv.*  
**wound'ing·ly** *adv.*

## wound <sup>2</sup> (wound)

*v.*  
Past tense and past participle of [wind](#)<sup>2</sup>.

## wound <sup>3</sup> (wound)

*v. Music*  
A past tense and a past participle of [wind](#)<sup>3</sup>.



SINCE 1828

wound [X] [Q]

DICTIONARY THESAURUS

# wound noun

\ 'wũnd, archaic or dialectal 'waund \

## Definition of wound (Entry 1 of 3)

- 1 a : an injury to the body (as from violence, accident, or surgery) that typically involves laceration or breaking of a membrane (such as the skin) and usually damage to underlying tissues
- b : a cut or breach in a plant usually due to an external agent
- 2 : a mental or emotional hurt or blow
- 3 : something resembling a wound in appearance or effect  
*especially* : a rift in or blow to a political body or social group

# wound verb

\ 'wũnd, archaic or dialectal 'waund \

wounded; wounding; wounds

## Definition of wound (Entry 2 of 3)

*transitive verb*

: to cause a wound to or in

*intransitive verb*

: to inflict a wound

# wound

\ 'waũnd \

## Definition of wound (Entry 3 of 3)

past tense and past participle of WIND

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