

HOW TO TREAT A WRAPPING-PAPER CUT

- 1 Keep the victim calm and immobile.**

A paper cut can cause intense pain at the injury site, but such cuts are usually superficial lacerations and rarely dangerous, except in the case of infection.
- 2 Instruct the victim to lie down if he/she feels faint.**

After the initial rush of pain, the brain will become habituated to the discomfort and the pain will subside.
- 3 If the injury is to the finger, keep the finger straight.**

Especially if the laceration crosses a knuckle, keep the finger straight to prevent pulling of the skin, which will increase pain. Hold the victim's other hand, if necessary.
- 4 Inspect the wound.**

In the unlikely event that foreign material is lodged in the wound, remove the debris using sterilized tweezers.
- 5 Clean the wound.**

Use warm water and soap to thoroughly wash out the wound.
- 6 Disinfect the injured area.**

Treat the wound with isopropyl alcohol or hydrogen peroxide. This treatment may momentarily irritate the cut and cause slight pain.

- 7 Apply pressure.**

Residual bleeding may occur if the cut is deep. Put pressure on the injury site, using a sterile bandage or clean cloth.
- 8 Treat with an antibiotic ointment.**

Apply a topical antibiotic to impede bacterial growth.
- 9 Dress the wound.**

Use a sterile bandage or adhesive strip. Until the wound heals, avoid contact with lemon juice and salt at the site of the wound: Both will cause intense pain.
- 10 Take pain medication, if necessary.**

An especially deep paper cut may cause prolonged pain, which can be treated with an over-the-counter pain reliever such as aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen. Aspirin can thin the blood and may cause the wound to ooze for a longer period of time, however.

Be Aware

- In rare cases, a serious paper cut may be very deep and create a large flap of torn skin. Such an injury may require a butterfly bandage or stitches. If the wound does not stop bleeding even after applying continual pressure, or if an infection develops, seek medical attention.
- Open presents slowly.