

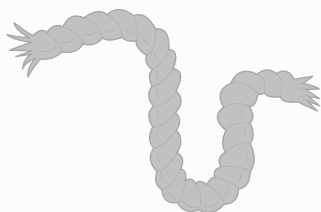
# TOP 12 *MUST-HAVE* TOPICAL WOUND DRESSINGS

basic products for day-to-day wound care

*Nancy Morgan*  
WOUND CARE

## AMORPHOUS HYDROGEL

90% water in a gel base; Useful for adding moisture to wound bed, softening/debriding necrotic tissue and for maintaining moist wound bed.

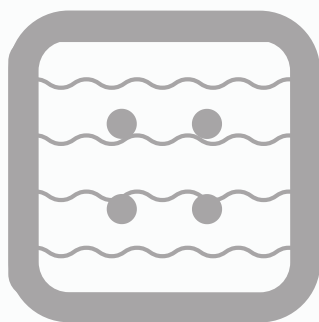
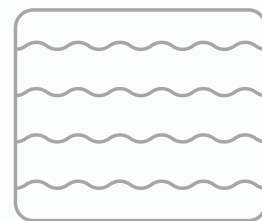


## ALGINATE

Dressings with calcium and sodium fibers made from seaweed that absorb drainage and form a gel in the wound bed; Used to control moderate to heavy wound drainage, keeps the wound bed moist and assists with debridement.

## FOAM

Dressings made from polyurethane foam with small open cells capable of holding fluids; Used to control scant to small amount of wound drainage, keeps the wound bed moist, assists with debridement of necrotic tissue, provides insulation, and may be left in place 3-7 days.



## BORDER FOAM DRESSINGS

with an adhesive border helps keep the dressing in place and ensures keeps the wound bed moist, assists with debridement of necrotic tissue, provides insulation, and may be left in place 3-7 days.

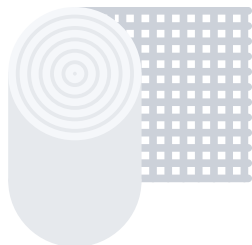
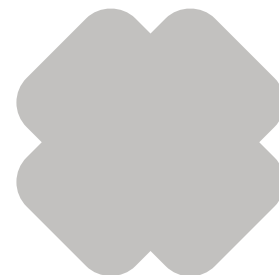
## HYDROCOLLOID

Wafer dressing containing gel-forming agents in an adhesive compound laminated onto a flexible water resistant outer layer; Used to protect wounds from urinary or fecal contamination, protect intact skin, keeps the wound bed moist, assists with debridement of necrotic tissue, provides insulation, and may be left in place 3-7 days.



## TRANSPARENT

Dressings made of polyurethane coated with an adhesive; Used for protection from friction and bacterial invasion, provides moist wound environment, assists with debridement while allowing for visualization of wound bed and may be left in place 3-7 days.



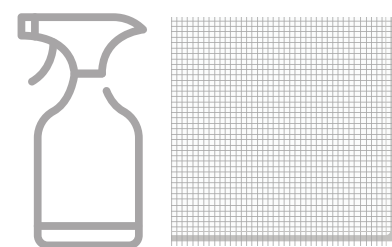
## NON STERILE GAUZE

Dressings made with cotton, polyester or rayon. Often referred to as 4X4's; Used for cleansing, packing and covering a variety of wounds. Choose a tape that is latex free and hypoallergenic; fabric non-woven polyester tape is useful for securement to awkward areas.

## WOUND CLEANSER/COVER DRESSINGS

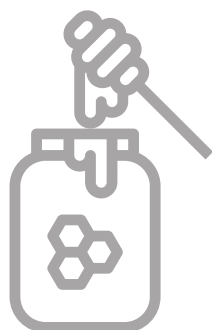
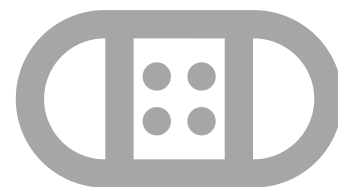
Normal Saline or commercial wound cleanser with surfactants.

Composite dressing that is waterproof, flexible, absorptive and self-adhering.



## ANTIMICROBIAL DRESSING

Products that deliver the effects of agents, such as silver and Polyhexamethylene Biguanide (PHMB), to maintain efficacy against common infectious bacteria. Available as sponges, impregnated woven gauzes, film dressings, absorptive products, island dressings, nylon fabric, non-adherent barriers, or a combination of materials.

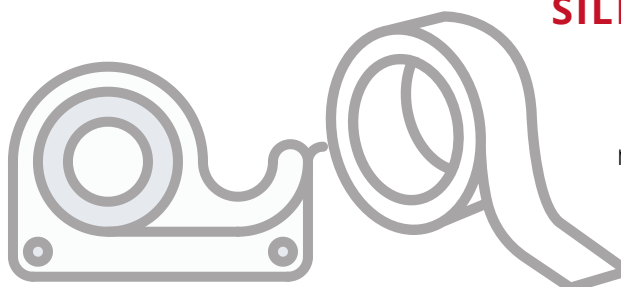


## MANUKA HONEY DRESSING

Dressings with medical grade honey are useful for acute and chronic wounds. The dressings help to prepare the wound bed and promote an optimal healing environment. Multiple mechanisms of action include reducing edema, lowering wound pH and debriding slough and eschar. Multiple versions of the dressing are available to handle differing levels of exudates. Indicated for partial and full-thickness wounds including pressure ulcers, leg ulcers (arterial, venous and diabetic ulcers), burns, donor sites and surgical wounds.

## MEDICAL TAPE

Choose a tape that is latex free and hypoallergenic; fabric non-woven polyester tape is useful for securement to awkward areas.



## SILICONE MEDICAL TAPE

silicone adhesive medical tape minimizes skin trauma upon removal. Used on fragile, friable skin.