



Wart Treatment

Warts are caused by infection of the skin with a virus and can be very difficult to treat. Treatments often involve localized destruction of the involved tissue. Studies comparing wart treatments have found at home self therapy works as well as in office treatments. The following are instructions on how to treat at home.

1. After a shower/bath or soaking of the wart in warm water, gently file the wart as flat as possible without causing discomfort. Use Dr. Scholl's corn/callus file, pumice stone, emory board nail file or metal file. Avoid using this file on other areas as this may cause spread of the wart virus.
2. Apply 17-20% salicylic acid liquid directly to the wart only. This medicine is available over the counter in the foot care aisle. Brand names include Duofilm, Compound W, or Occlusal-H.P.

Wait for the liquid medicine to dry thoroughly then cover treated wart with a bandage or duct tape as recommended.

Alternatively, you can apply a salicylic acid pad to the wart. Brand names include Mediplast, Dr. Scholl's OneStep. Please cut the patch to cover the visible lesion only, and cover the patch with a bandage or tape to keep in place.

3. The bandage may be removed the next morning or left on for the day.
4. The next evening after removing the bandage, repeat from step 1.
5. Continue the above directions until corn/callus/wart has resolved. Usually it takes about 3 months.

For more information on warts, please view our [All About Warts Video](#).