

Getting Your Skin Ready for Surgery - Adult

This handout explains how to clean your skin before surgery. This is to help lower your risk for infection.

Please review each step below. You must be careful to give yourself enough time to follow each step. Your clinic will supply you with Hibiclens® at your visit. You can also buy it at your local drug store. Call your clinic if you have questions.

Supplies Needed

- Hibiclens® CHG soap and a clean washcloth or new body sponge
- Clean towels, bedsheets, pillowcase and pajamas.

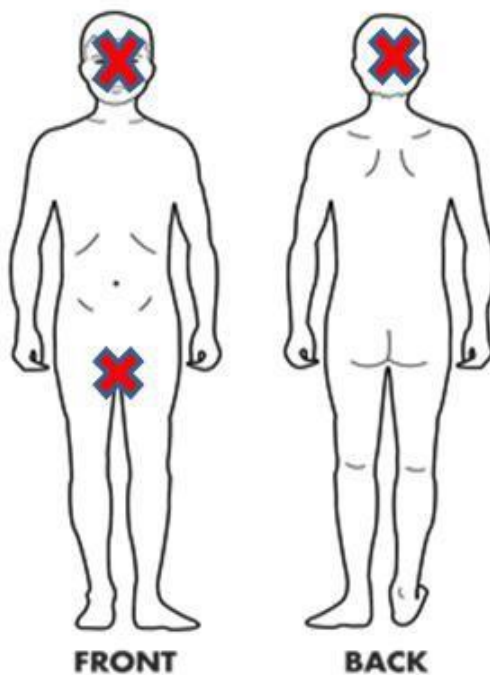
3 Days Before Surgery

Do **not** shave or wax near the area where you will have your surgery.

The Night Before Surgery (After 6:00pm)

1. Shower or bathe using your normal soap and shampoo. **Do not shave.**
2. Turn off or step out of the stream of water.
3. Wet the clean washcloth and open the CHG soap.
 - **Do not apply soap directly to your face, head or genital area.**
 - Apply CHG soap to the washcloth and wash your skin from neck to toe. Cover all skin areas one at a time. You should use about half of the soap in the bottle. The rest should be used the morning of your surgery.

4. Leave CHG soap on skin for 1 minute (sing happy birthday two times slowly), so it can absorb into your skin.
5. Rinse with warm water. Do not scrub. **Slight contact to the genital area during rinsing is fine.**
6. Blot your skin dry with a clean towel.
7. Do not use lotions, creams, powder, perfume or makeup after the shower or bath.
8. Dress in clean pajamas and sleep on clean sheets.



Supplies Needed

- Hibiclens[®] CHG soap and a clean washcloth, or new body sponge
- Clean towels, underwear and clothing.

**The Morning of Surgery at Home
(2 Hours Before Surgery)**

1. Repeat steps 1 through 8 on first page.
2. Avoid anything that could make you sweat before surgery. Your skin needs to be clean and ready for surgery.

**The Morning of Surgery at the
Hospital or Surgery Center**

Staff may apply a sterile medicine in your nose right before your surgery. The medicine will kill nasal germs that could cause an infection at your surgical site after the surgery. This sterile medicine may leave a brown stain inside your nose. This should go away when you blow your nose after surgery.

Important

Do not use if you are allergic to chlorhexidine gluconate or any other ingredient in this soap.

If you notice a rash, redness or itching after using the Hibiclens[®] CHG soap, rinse off. Do not use it again. When you arrive for surgery, tell your health care team about your reaction.

If you have an ostomy, do not use Hibiclens[®] soap on the skin under your pouching system.

The Spanish version of this *Health Facts for You* is #7938s

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 2/2020. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7938.