

Foot Care Tips:

Take Care of Your Feet for a Lifetime.

Stick up this foot care tip sheet on the wall of your bathroom to remind you to take care of your feet.

Complete the “To Do List” on the back page of this booklet

1. Check your feet every day.

- ▶ Look at your bare feet every day for cuts, blisters, red spots, and swelling.
- ▶ Use a mirror to check the bottoms of your feet or ask a family member for help if you have trouble seeing.

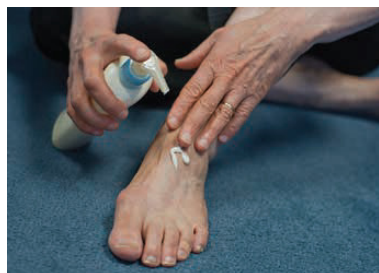


2. Wash your feet every day.

- ▶ Wash your feet in warm, not hot, water every day.
- ▶ Dry your feet. Be sure to dry between the toes.

3. Keep the skin soft and smooth.

- ▶ Rub a thin coat of lotion over the tops and bottoms of your feet, but not between your toes.



4. Smooth corns and calluses gently.

- ▶ If your podiatrist tells you to, use a pumice stone to gently smooth corns and calluses.
- ▶ Do not use over-the-counter products or sharp objects on corns and calluses.



5. If you can see, reach, and feel your feet, trim your toenails regularly. If you cannot, ask a podiatrist to trim them for you.

- ▶ Trim your toenails straight across and smooth the corners with an emery board or nail file.



6. Wear shoes and socks at all times.

- ▶ Never walk barefoot.
- ▶ Wear shoes that fit well and protect your feet.
- ▶ Feel inside your shoes before putting them on to make sure the lining is smooth and that there are no objects inside.



7. Protect your feet from hot and cold.

- ▶ Wear shoes at the beach and on hot pavement.
- ▶ Wear socks at night if your feet get cold.
- ▶ Do not test bath water with your feet.
- ▶ Do not use hot water bottles or heating pads on your feet.

8. Keep the blood flowing to your feet.

- ▶ Put your feet up when sitting.
- ▶ Wiggle your toes and move your ankles up and down for 5 minutes, two or three times a day.
- ▶ Do not cross your legs for long periods of time.
- ▶ Do not smoke. Call Quitline 13 78 48



9. Be active every day.

- ▶ Talk to your health care team about safe ways you can be more active.

10. Check with your health care team.

- ▶ Have your community care worker or podiatrist check your bare feet and tell you if you have foot problems or may get foot problems in the future. Remember that you may not feel the pain of an injury.
- ▶ Call your health care team right away if you find a cut, sore, blister, or bruise on your foot that does not begin to heal after a few days.
- ▶ Follow your health care team's advice about foot care.

11. Take care of your diabetes.

- ▶ Ask your health care team to help you set and reach goals for managing your blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol.

To Do List:

Make plans now to take care of your feet for a lifetime.

Check each item when completed.

- Use the foot care tips in this brochure
- Put this list where I will see it every day.
- Get a pair of nail clippers, an emery board, and pumice stone if my health care team member tells me to.
- Buy soft, lightly padded, seamless socks.
- Buy a pair of shoes that fit well and protect my feet.
- Place slippers beside my bed to wear when I get out of bed.
- Get a mirror to help me see the bottoms of my feet.
- Ask for help from a family member or caregiver if I cannot see my feet.
- Keep my next doctor's visit.
- Ask my health care team about diabetes services and supplies that may be covered by Medicare or other insurance plans.
- Ask my doctor, nurse or caregiver to look at my feet at every visit.
- Talk with my health care team about safe ways I can be more active each day.
- Stop smoking. Call Quitline on 13 78 48.
- Work to manage my diabetes to prevent foot problems.