

Preventing Dry Ice Burns



DID YOU KNOW DRY ICE IS 100 TIMES COLDER THAN YOUR FREEZER? PREVENT DRY ICE BURNS BY FOLLOWING THESE SAFETY TIPS.

Safety Tips

Do

- Use gloves to handle dry ice.
- Make sure there is air circulating in the room while handling dry ice to avoid carbon dioxide poisoning.
- When transporting using dry ice, place the dry ice on top as cold air sinks.

Don't

- Don't ingest the dry ice fragment. Ingesting can cause tissue damage from frostbite.
- Don't set dry ice directly onto countertops or in empty glass containers. The freezing temperature could crack the material.

How to Treat a Frostbite Burn

Frostbite burns can be serious. For severe cases, treatment must be sought within 24 hours. Treat a dry ice burn as you would treat frostbite or a burn from heat. A red area will heal quickly (a day or two). You can apply burn ointment and a bandage, but only if the area needs to be covered (e.g., open blisters). In cases of severe frostbite, seek medical attention (this is extremely uncommon).

Signs and Symptoms

- Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite
- A white or grayish-yellow skin area
- Skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- Numbness