



Snake & spider bites

Australian snake or suspected funnel-web bite: act immediately.



Call 000 for suspected snake or funnel-web bite, even if the person feels well.

1

Keep still

Reassure the person. Keep them lying down and do not let them walk. Do not chase, catch or kill the animal.

2

Apply pressure bandaging

For a limb bite, apply a firm, broad elasticised bandage over the bite. Then bandage from fingers or toes up the whole limb, leaving fingertips or toes visible. Firm like a sprained-ankle bandage, not tight enough to stop circulation.

3

Immobilise the limb

Use a splint and keep the person completely still. Mark the bite site on the bandage if known. Note the time of the bite and bandaging. Leave bandages on for medical staff to remove.

4

Monitor breathing

Stay with the person. If unresponsive and not breathing normally, start CPR and follow 000. Resuscitation takes priority over bandaging.

Redback and other spider bites

Do not use pressure immobilisation. Use a wrapped cold pack for pain, for up to 20 minutes. Seek medical care if unwell or pain is severe; call 000 for collapse or breathing trouble. Treat a possible funnel-web bite as above.

Do not

Wash a snake bite, cut or suck any bite, or use a tourniquet. For a bite away from a limb, follow the 000 call-taker.



Bandage + immobilise

For snake or suspected funnel-web bite.

Sources: ANZCOR 9.4.8: Pressure immobilisation; ANZCOR 9.4.2: Spider bite; Healthdirect: Snake bites.