Eschar, pronounced es-CAR, is dead tissue that sheds or falls off from healthy skin. It’s caused by burns and also occurs in pressure wounds (bedsores). Eschar is typically tan, brown, or black, and may be crusty.

Wounds are classified into stages based on how deep they are and how much skin tissue is affected. When a wound has eschar on top of it, the wound can’t be classified. This is because eschar is dead, dark tissue that makes it difficult to see the wound underneath. Because eschar is part of the body’s natural healing process, a physician will not always recommend removing it.

An eschar is a slough or piece of dead tissue that is cast off from the surface of the skin, particularly after a burn injury, but also seen in gangrene, ulcer, fungal infections, necrotizing spider bite wounds, tick bites associated with spotted fevers, and exposure to cutaneous anthrax. The term "eschar" is not interchangeable with "scab". An eschar contains necrotic tissue, whereas a scab is composed of dried blood and exudate.

Eschar may be allowed to slough off naturally, or it may require surgical removal ([debridement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debridement)) to prevent infection.

The term “**eschar**” is NOT interchangeable with "**scab**". **Eschar** is dead tissue found in a full-thickness wound. ... The term "**scab**" is used when a crust has formed by coagulation of blood or exudate. **Scabs** are found on superficial or partial-thickness wounds.

While an eschar wound can’t be staged in the same way most wounds can, a wound with eschar often signals a more advanced wound, typically a stage 3 or 4.

The four stages of wounds are:

* Stage 1: The skin isn’t broken but may be slightly red in appearance. When the wound is pressed on, the area underneath your finger will not turn white.
* Stage 2: The wound is open and/or broken. This may look like a blister that has ruptured, or be slightly deep like a basin.
* Stage 3: This wound type has a deep, crater-like appearance down into the fat portion of the skin. The tissue will typically have yellow-colored dead tissue or eschar.
* Stage 4: The most serious wound type, a stage 4 wound will likely contain some slough and be deep down in the skin. Muscle, bone, and tendons also may be exposed due to the seriousness of the wound.

The more advanced stages of wounds can be due to skin injury or pressure sores. One example is a bedsore where constant pressure on the skin affects blood flow to the tissues. As a result, the tissue becomes damaged and dies. These occur most often on the heels, ankles, hips, or buttocks.





