

Application of Topical Medications

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” isn’t just an expression; it’s essential advice, especially when you’re dealing with medication for a wound. Infection can present a major setback to any wound that is healing. Your veterinarian’s treatment plan is designed to promote healing at a healthy pace, so what can you do to help?

Remember your mom telling you to “Keep your dirty fingers off that!”? This advice is never more important than when you are applying topical medications to wounds.

There are more bacteria or fungi present in the environment than we can imagine. Laboratories that test microbe reduction express this in terms of logarithmic calculations that factor these numbers into something that can be expressed without numbers followed by a lot of zeros. There are billions times billions of germs in the environment, and though some are good, some such as staphylococcus aureus (staph) and E.coli are not what you want on the wound that you are working to protect.

When applying topical medication, it is important not to contaminate the wound or the medication. If you have surgical gloves, use them. But don’t double dip! Be sure to keep clean surgical gloves in your barn and if you touch something other than the wound, start again with new gloves. If you are not sure you haven’t already contaminated the gloves by the time you get them on, or you don’t have any surgical gloves, here is another quick method for applying topical medications to a wound.

What You Need to Keep In Your Barn Med Chest:

Keep these items in their own secured plastic bags so that they stay clean.

1. Q-Tips, always useful for small wounds or sores.
2. Plastic Wrap. Plastic wrap is sterile and you can keep it that way by storing your roll in its own plastic bag.
3. A ladies’ blush or medium-size makeup brush or soft artist brushes.



Your applicator of choice, plastic wrap and the medication.

Plastic wrap is sterile unless you touch the surface or allow the surface to touch something other than the wound. Carefully pull off enough to cover your choice of applicator without touching the surface of the plastic wrap that will cover the portion of the applicator that will come in contact with the wound. Wrap the plastic over the applicator. If you touch the plastic wrap that is covering the brush, start over. Twist the excess wrap around the handle.



Now you have a clean applicator that will glide smoothly over a wound leaving an even layer of topical medication.

If you need more medication, throw away the used plastic wrap, cover the brush or Q-tip with a new piece of plastic, and dip again preventing the contamination of the medication. Avoiding the contamination of the medication ensures you don't contaminate the wound.



If your topical medications are contaminated, toss them and get new ones from your vet. Once an applicator, a surgical glove or your finger has touched another surface, it potentially has billions of germs on it. For more helpful articles go to: "[Sock Support](#)" [Buy Now](#)

