



Caring for Your Baby



Cleaning

How do I keep my baby's umbilical cord clean?

- Daily cleansing may be done with plain water (during bathing).
- The umbilical cord can be gently pat dry or air-dried.
- More frequent cleaning (with diaper changes) using a water-moistened Q-tip will help keep baby's umbilical cord clean.
- Always keep the umbilical cord clean and dry. Diapers should be folded down and away from the umbilical cord area to prevent contamination of the umbilical cord with urine or feces.
- The clamp and umbilical cord does not hurt your baby as there are no nerves in the umbilical cord.
- The cord area heals on its own and the cord will gradually dry and fall off at approximately 10-14 days after birth.
- Slight bleeding (drops of blood) and redness of the skin surrounding the umbilicus, may occur briefly as the cord falls off.
- The umbilical cord may be infected if your baby has a fever, or there is an odd smell coming from the umbilical cord.



Call your health care provider or public health nurse if you are concerned.