

Table 1: Primary Contact Layers and Their Uses

The purpose of the primary contact layer or wound dressing is to create an environment that promotes wound healing. Specific product selections should be based on the current state of the wound, which may change over time. This layer functions to absorb exudates, debride tissues, deliver medications, and provide an occlusive seal over the wound.

Primary Contact Layer	Use
Alginates	Autolytic debridement, heavy exudate draining, infection management
Antimicrobial	Disinfectant, antiseptic, antibiotic, biocide to inhibit or kill microbes
Cadexomer Iodine	Exuding wounds, sloughy wounds, infection management
Cellular Matrix	Porous matrix of bovine tendon collagen and glycosaminoglycan, promotes capillary growth
Charcoal	Odor management
Collagen	Stimulates new tissue growth
Films	Autolytic debridement, light exudate draining
Foams	Autolytic debridement, heavy exudate draining, infection management
Gauze	Mechanical debridement, heavy exudate draining
Gelling Fiber	Absorbs and retains exudate
Honey	Infection management, debrides slough, rehydrates necrosis
Hydrocolloids	High moisture vapor transmission, autolytic debridement, light exudate draining
Hydrofibers	Autolytic debridement, heavy exudate draining, infection management
Hydrogels	Autolytic debridement, light/moderate exudate draining, infection management
Iodine	Infection management
Non Adherent	Dry wound beds, light draining, will not stick to wound bed
NPWT	Negative pressure wound therapy, vacuum dressing, removes exudate
Occlusive	Seals the wound from external contaminants, promotes moist environment
PHMB	Polyhexamethylene biguande, infection management, antibacterial
Protease	Modulating dressing, absorbs exudate, removes cofactors, releases inhibitors, reduces protease
Saline Gauze	Autolytic debridement, light/moderate exudate draining, infection management
Collagenase	Enzymatic debridement
Silicone	Reduces hypertrophic and keloid scars, less wound trauma from dressing changes
Silver	Infection management, antibacterial
TNP	Topical negative pressure, draws wound edges together, removes exudate, promotes granulation

(Source: VitalityMedical.com)