How Deep Is Your Burn? First, Second, and Third Degree Burns

Burn Type	Definition & Examples	Common Characteristics	Visual
First Degree	"Superficial" burns that affect only the outer layer of skin Ex. Mild sunburn, etc.	Mild redness and swelling, moderately painful	
Second Degree	"Partial-thickness" burns that affect the outer layer and extend to the middle layer of skin below Ex . Scald burn, etc.	Skin may be red, blistered, moist, swollen, very painful	
Third Degree	"Full-thickness" burns that affect the deep layer of skin Ex. Contact burn, flame burn, etc.	Whitish, charred, or translucent, waxy, leathery, no pin prick sensation in burn area	

Source: The Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center - Valleywise Health Team

Even small burns can be deeper than they appear.

Delaying care can lead to serious complications and damage. When in doubt or if you think a life is in danger, please call 911.

