

- Changes in shape through wearing stump bandages or shrinkers and the prosthesis.
- Reduction in pain as the wound heals and you get used to wearing a prosthesis.

Using a plaster of paris socket means it can quickly and easily be replaced in response to these changes.

However, the temporary prosthesis must be looked after so that it can continue to be safely used.

Risks associated with using the temporary prosthesis include:

- Falls.
- Damage to the surgical wound.
- Skin breakdown, or damage to your skin such as blisters or ulcers.
- Pain in your stump.

Caring for your temporary prosthesis can help control these risks.

General principles for care of your temporary prosthesis:

- Do not get the temporary prosthesis wet.
 - The plaster will soften and break.
 - Foam, rubber, and soft coverings can perish, including the heels of the feet.
 - Metal components can rust, especially when exposed to salt water.
- Some components, such as the leather straps, can be wiped with a lightly dampened cloth.
- Do not expose your prosthesis to environments that may harm the metal components. Saltwater, fresh water, sand, dirt, acids, and other liquids can cause metals to corrode and plastic components to crack or perish. This is especially important with moving parts, such as knee or ankle joints.
- Do not make any self-adjustments to the socket, or the alignment of the prosthesis.
 - The socket is designed to put pressure on certain parts of your stump, and to provide relief over painful or sensitive areas. Changing the alignment can change the distribution of pressure and cause pain or skin damage.
- Inspect the temporary prosthesis before use.
 - Check for cracks in the plaster.
 - Ensure the straps or belts are secure.
 - Make sure none of the screws are loose, or the metal components are loose.
 - Ensure the shoe is on properly.
 - Listen for any clicks or rattles and report these to your physiotherapist.



Care of Your Temporary Prosthesis

Your temporary prosthesis, or artificial limb, is designed to be used at the beginning of your rehabilitation to allow you to practice learning to walk again.

It is a custom made device that is intended to be only used by you!

Your temporary prosthesis is made of many components, including plaster of paris, metal, foam, leather, and a variety of plastics or rubber.

The plaster of paris socket is used initially because your stump will undergo changes as it heals and the scars mature. These changes include:

- Decreases in size as the swelling from the surgery resolves.
- Decreases in size as your circulation reorganises itself inside the stump.

- The temporary prosthesis is designed to allow you to practice walking. It is not designed for higher level activities such as:
 - Running
 - Jumping
 - Bushwalking
 - Water activities
 - Kicking
 - Heavy manual labour, including carrying heavy loads.
- Using your temporary prosthesis for these activities can cause it to break, and cause damage to your stump or skin. You may even risk a fall and more serious injury.
- Use your temporary prosthesis only for those activities that your physiotherapist has practiced with you or recommended are safe to do.
- Do not use your prosthesis if you notice it is not functioning as well as it previously was.
- Do not use your prosthesis if it is not fitting as well as before, or if you are not sure it is on properly.

- If you have any doubts about the prosthesis, DO NOT USE IT! Report your doubts or questions to your physiotherapist.
- Please return the temporary prosthesis to the Physiotherapy Department when you are no longer using it.

If you have any questions, contact your health professional:

Physiotherapist: _____

Phone: _____

Prosthetist: _____

Phone: _____

Rehab Doctor: _____

Phone: _____