

Common NPWT Setup Mistakes

Get set up done right, every time.

NPWT outcomes depend on more than the right device; having a consistent setup plan is what keeps therapy working. These are the six most common mistakes made.

MISTAKE #1: INCORRECT DRESSING SIZE

Foam should cover the wound bed, and the drape should extend 2–3 cm onto intact peri-wound skin.

MISTAKE #2: POOR SKIN PREP

Peri-wound skin must be clean and dry before drape application. Moisture breaks the seal.

MISTAKE #3: TENSION ON TUBING

Route tubing without kinks or tension. Secure with a drape anchor—not tape alone.

MISTAKE #4: INCOMPLETE SEAL CHECK

Run a full perimeter check after drape application. Listen and look for any air leaks before starting.

MISTAKE #5: SKIPPING PRESSURE VERIFICATION

Confirm the prescribed pressure setting is reached and held before leaving the bedside

MISTAKE #6: CANISTER NOT FULLY SEATED

Align the canister base and press until it clicks into place. A partial lock causes pressure loss /alerts.

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