



**SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY**

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Salicylic Acid

40% = strongest over-the-counter
70% = strongest prescription strength*
(available only at specific pharmacies*)

This is the only form of therapy that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of warts. Several formulations are commercially available—as stick-on patches, paint-on liquid or ointment. Salicylic acid works by softening the wart virus-infected skin cells so that they may be easily removed. For best results, the medicine must be applied once a day as follows:

1. Soak the area thoroughly (this may be done in the bath or shower).
2. Pat the skin dry and apply the topical medication to the wart and approximately ¼ inch of surrounding (normal appearing) skin.
3. Cover the treated area with your favorite tape. Duct tape works well.
4. Leave the tape in place for one day.
5. After removing the tape, gently rub the softened, whitish, treated skin using a moistened wash cloth or a disposable emery board.
6. Do not pick the skin. This could spread the wart to your fingernail area.
7. This treatment should not be painful. If excessive redness, swelling or tenderness develops discontinue the salicylic acid and apply petroleum jelly until the area is healed. Protect the normal surrounding skin with petroleum jelly or zinc oxide ointment before additional treatment. If the symptoms persist for more than 3 days, or get worse, call (314) 268-2700 X3457.
8. Repeat steps 1-5 every day. Expect to continue treatment for at least one month, and at least one week after you think the wart is gone.

***Pharmacies that make prescription-strength 70% salicylic acid ointment**

St. John's Mercy: 314-251-6046; S. Ballas Rd. at Conway; Creve Coeur
Bellevue: 314-727-8787; 1034 S. Brentwood Blvd.; Richmond Heights
Cardinal Glennon: 314-577-5677; 1465 S. Grand Blvd.; St. Louis