



How Skin Saves Lives (Frequently Asked Question)

1. How can donated skin help save a life?

More than **2,000** people a year die from serious burn injuries in Nepal. Skin donation can change this. Each donation can save the lives of **two** severe burn patients. Donated skin acts like a “**super bandage**,” temporarily protecting burn patients from infection and temperature loss while they heal.

2. When and where can skin be donated?

Skin can be donated **within 6 hours of death**. The family can simply **call toll free 16600151000** to notify the skin bank. After being called, our technicians will arrive quickly to collect the donation. This can be done in a hospital, in the home of the deceased, or at another site that the family prefers.

3. How do you do it?

After placing the body in a sterile environment and sanitizing the area, our technicians will use a specialized tool called a **dermatome** to remove a **paper-thin layer of skin** from the body.

4. From where will you take the skin?

We usually take **four grafts**: one from each **thigh**, one from the **chest**, and one from the **back**. Your family may choose to leave any of these grafts undone, for any reason.

5. What does the body look like afterward?

The skin underneath will be a bit **lighter in color**. There will be no wounds, internal organs, or blood showing. Skin donation will never change the appearance of your face.

6. How long will it take?

The process takes about **45 minutes** and will be incorporated into traditional funeral practices so that no rights are disrupted.

7. What happens to the skin next?

The skin is placed in a cooled container and taken to Kirtipur Hospital where the surgical team will use it to save severe burn patients.

8. How long can skin be used?

Skin can be preserved and stored for a period of up to **5 years**.

9. Who can be a donor?

Anyone can donate skin regardless of sex, skin color and blood group. **No donor-recipient matching is required**. The minimum age of the donor is **16 years**, but there is no upper age limit. The donor should not be suffering from any of the following conditions: HIV, Hepatitis B & C, skin cancer, active skin disease or septicemia.

10. Is it mandatory to register in order to donate skin?

No, it is not mandatory. However, if you do register, we will provide you with a Skin Donor ID card for future reference. You can register online [here](#).