



## Home Safety

# Glossary

**absorb:** to take up liquid or other matter through the skin or membranes

**acceleration:** the change in velocity over a period of time

**aerobic cellular respiration:** the chemical process in which oxygen is used to make energy from carbohydrates (sugars)

**allergen:** a substance that induces an allergy

**anoxia:** the deprivation of oxygen

**balance:** a stable state characterized by cancellation of all forces by equal and opposing forces

**burn:** a soft-tissue injury to the skin or other body tissues caused by heat, chemicals, electricity, friction or radiation

**cause:** that which produces a result or effect

**cell:** the basic unit of all living tissue

**cell respiration:** the process by which energy stored in molecules is released within plant and animal cells

**center of mass:** the balance point between two large objects that is closer to that of the larger object

**chemical burn:** an injury caused by the skin's exposure to a chemical substance, such as strong acids, alkalis or other corrosive materials

**choking:** the inability to breathe due to a blocked airway

**circulatory system:** the group of organs and other structures that carries oxygenated blood and other nutrients throughout the body, removes waste and returns oxygen-depleted blood to the lungs

**compression:** an increase in density

**cubic centimeter (cc):** a metric unit that measures volume. It is equal to, and often replaced by, 1 milliliter

**density:** the ratio of an object's mass to its volume



Visit the American Red Cross Web site  
at [www.redcross.org/disaster/masters](http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters)



## Home Safety

### Glossary

**dermis:** a layer of skin. It contains the nerves, hair roots, sweat glands, oil glands and blood vessels

**drowning:** death by suffocation when submerged in water

**effect:** result

**electrical burn:** an injury to the skin or internal organs caused by exposure to an electric current, which converts to heat when it enters the body

**emergency:** a situation requiring immediate action

**epidermis:** the outer layer of skin

**epiglottis:** the flap of tissue that covers the trachea during swallowing to prevent food and liquid from entering the lungs

**fall:** to drop down suddenly

**first-degree (superficial) burn:** an injury involving only the skin's outer layer (epidermis), characterized by dry, red skin

**force:** that which puts an object at rest into motion or alters the motion of a moving object; push or pull

**fracture:** a break or disruption in bone tissue

**friction:** the property of objects that makes them resist forces that would cause them to move

**gravity:** the force of attraction that acts between all objects because of their mass

**hazard:** danger

**heat:** the transfer of energy from one system to another as a result of a difference in temperature

**hypodermis:** a layer of connective tissue located beneath the dermis and epidermis. It contains fat, blood vessels and connective tissue

**impact:** to hit with force; to have an effect on

**inertia:** the tendency of an object to remain in its current state, whether at rest or in motion

**ingest:** to take into the body by swallowing

**inhale:** to aspirate air into the lungs

**inject:** to force a fluid into the body



Visit the American Red Cross Web site  
at [www.redcross.org/disaster/masters](http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters)



## Home Safety

### Glossary

**mechanical burn:** an injury caused by the skin's exposure to friction, such as from ropes, carpets and sports activities

**milligram:** one-thousandth of a gram

**milliliter:** one-thousandth of a liter

**mitochondrion (*plural, mitochondria*):** an organelle that converts chemical energy in food into a product that the cells can use

**muscle:** body organs consisting of bundles of cells that can be contracted and expanded

**nontoxic:** nonpoisonous

**organelle:** a specialized part of a cell

**oxidation:** the combining of oxygen with a substance

**oxygen:** an element essential to combustion and life. Oxygen always appears in nature as the molecule ( $O_2$ ) or in the single elemental form, (O), when bound with another element, for example, with another atom of oxygen, or atoms of carbon and hydrogen.

**poisoning:** harm to a body that occurs when the body is exposed to poison

**radiation burn:** an injury caused to the skin and sometimes underlying tissues by exposure to radiation, such as nuclear radiation from the sun, radiation therapy for cancer treatment, x-rays, sunlamps and tanning beds

**respiratory system:** the group of organs and other structures that brings air into the body and removes waste through a process called breathing or respiration

**responsibility:** the quality of being answerable or accountable

**rotation:** the act of rotating (turning) as if on an axis

**rotational inertia:** the resistance of objects that are spinning to stop spinning unless acted upon by some external force

**safety:** freedom from danger or injury

**second-degree (partial-thickness) burn:** an injury involving the skin's outer layer (epidermis) and underlying layer (dermis), often affecting sweat glands and hair follicles and characterized by redness, pain, swelling and blisters

**sensitivity:** the response to external stimuli



Visit the American Red Cross Web site  
at [www.redcross.org/disaster/masters](http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters)



## Home Safety

### Glossary

**skin graft:** the skin taken from one part of the body and used to replace damaged or missing skin in another part of the body

**suffocate:** to cut off the supply of oxygen to the lungs, resulting in death

**temperature:** the property of a body determining the rate at which heat will be transferred to it or from it; the measure of the warmth or coolness of an object in reference to a standard value

**thermal burn:** an injury caused by heat

**third-degree (full-thickness) burn:** an injury involving the skin's outer layer (epidermis) and underlying layer (dermis) and the loose connective tissue below the skin (hypodermis). It is characterized by the destruction of skin tissue and underlying structures, usually resulting in extensive scarring.

**torque:** the force that acts to produce rotation

**toxic:** poisonous

**toxin:** poisonous substance

**trachea:** the tube leading from the upper airway to the lungs that branches into two tubes (bronchial tubes), one for each lung. Another name for the trachea is the windpipe.

**velocity:** the rate at which a body moves in space in a given direction

**weight:** the measure of the force of gravity on an object

**wound:** an injury to soft tissue



Visit the American Red Cross Web site  
at [www.redcross.org/disaster/masters](http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters)