

Type	Characteristics/Actions	Indications for Use	Precautions/Contraindications	Wear Time	Cost
Island dressing e.g. Opsite Post-Op Transparent™ ¹⁸ , Opsite Post-Op Visible™ ¹⁹ , Primapore™ ²⁰	Protect new tissue growth ^{18,19,20} Absorbs low exudate ^{18,19,20} Waterproof ^{18,19}	Dry to low-exuding wounds Primary closure wounds	Not suitable for moderate to high exuding wounds Cautious on fragile skin	Up to seven days depending on exudate	Low cost
Hydrocolloid e.g. Comfeel™ ²¹ , Osmocol™ ²² , Duoderm™ ²³	Assists with autolytic debridement ^{21,22,23} Forms a gel when in contact with exudate, protecting newly formed tissue ^{21,22,23} Does not adhere to wound bed ^{21,22,23}	Low to moderate exuding wounds Can be used for chronic and acute wounds	Not to be used in infected wounds Maceration can occur due to low absorbency of dressing	Up to seven days depending on exudate	Low cost
Gelling fibre/ Hydrofibre e.g. Aquacel™ ²⁴ , Liquacel™ ²⁵ , Exufiber™ ²⁶	Vertical absorption and transfer of exudate to secondary dressing ^{24,25,26} Dressing becomes gel when wet, allowing for debridement of slough and easy removal ^{24, 25, 26}	Moderate to high exuding wounds, requires secondary dressing Wounds requiring gentle debridement	Edges of wounds can become macerated due to gelling nature of dressing Not to be used on dry wounds	Up to seven days depending on exudate levels	Medium cost
Foam e.g. Biatain foam™ ²⁷ , Mepilex border™ ²⁸ , Allevyn™ ²⁹	Foam core to lock away exudate ^{27, 28, 29} Can be cut to size ^{27,29} (excluding Mepilex Border™) Maintains moist wound environment ^{27, 28, 29} Biatain foam™: 3D technology allowing it to conform closely to wound bed ²⁷	Low to high levels of exudate Can be used on chronic and acute wounds	Contraindicated in very high exuding wounds	Up to seven days depending on exudate levels	Medium cost
Iodine e.g. Inadine™ ^{30,31} , Iodosorb™ ³²	Inadine™: Povidone iodine impregnated low adherent viscose fabric with polyethylene glycol. Broad spectrum antimicrobial effect ^{30,31} Iodosorb™: micro-beads loaded with 0.9% cadexomer iodine. Absorbs up to 7 times own weight in exudate, breaks down biofilm and helps with debridement ³²	Low to high exuding wounds Can be used on infected wounds	Contraindicated in pregnant and breast-feeding patients, known iodine sensitivity, kidney problems, Duhring’s herpetiform dermatitis, thyroid diseases ^{30,31,32}	Up to three days depending on exudate level – Inadine™ can be changed up to two times daily in highly exuding wounds ³¹	Medium to high cost
Silver e.g. Acticoat™ ³³ , Aquacel Ag+ Extra™ ³⁴	Acticoat™: Fast-acting bactericidal within 30 minutes. Nano-crystalline silver ³³ Aquacel Ag+ Extra™: Antimicrobial dressing that manages exudate, infection and biofilm ³⁴	Infected wounds Moderate to high exudate levels	Allergy to silver Can cause a change in skin colour due to silver deposits with Acticoat™ ³³	Up to seven days	Medium to high cost
DACC™ e.g. Sorbact® ³⁵	Sorbact® dressings are bacterial and fungi bindings dressings that can prevent and treat wound infections ^{35, 36}	Used on acute and chronic wounds Low to high exudate levels	Not to be used on patients with a known hypersensitivity to dialkylcarbamoyl chloride Not to be used in combination with fatty products such as ointments or creams as it may decrease the binding of microorganisms ^{35,36}	Can be left up to seven days depending on exudate levels	Medium cost
Negative Pressure Wound Therapy e.g. Prevena™ ³⁷ , PICO™ ³⁸	PICO™: Single use NPWT providing -80mmHg pressure with gentle silicone foam dressing ³⁷ Prevena™: Single use incisional NPWT delivering -125mmHg pressure continuously ³⁸	PICO™: Used on surgical incisions and hard-to-heal wounds. Low to moderate exudate levels ³⁷ Prevena™: Indicated for incisional wounds NPWT indicated for high-risk surgical wounds to prevent dehiscence and reduce lateral tension ³⁸	Contraindicated to use over underlying structures such as muscle, tendon, bone, organs or fistulas	Seven to 14 days depending on product used	High cost