

## Crusts & Flakes: Skin's *Worstest* of Enemies\*

Crusts and Flakes are the LEADING cause of *continued* skin trouble, *recurrent* infections, and *delayed* or negative wound healing. You've GOT to get ahead of crusts. **They are NOT permissible.**

- When hair and debris sticks into a wound, it can't heal.
- When **crusts** cover a wound, germs are fed and nurtured.
- For most skin infections, "air" is more toxic than an antibiotic.



Any brush that doesn't hurt the back of your hand is fine for use on dog skin. Using common sense with two-and-a-half pound puppies and Chihuahuas.

For me, I prefer my fingernails because I can tell what I'm doing, how hard I'm pressing, and I can tell HOW I'm doing because I can actually feel the crusts and scabs dislodge.

Sure, that's gross. But better. And if you're concerned about doing it with your fingernails, *simply don't do it that way*.

**Go against the grain!** A dog's hair points towards the tail. It's quite effective to scrub the skin towards the head.

**What if:** "I tried to get the crusts out, but I was removing too much hair! Great big bald patches emerged!"

**Answer:** Yup. Only dead hair can come out with a scrubbin'. If you leave that lumber standing it will just add to the fire. Removing the dead hair, crusts and scale expose a lot of bare skin, but that's skin the germs can't fester in. **GET AIR TO THE SKIN.**

You're NOT removing 'live' hair.

Things that get rid of crusts:

- Fingernail brushes or fingernails
- Universal Medicated Shampoo
- Shampoos that contain:
  - Coal Tar
  - Salicylic Acid (*Great: Neutrogena Nu-Sal-T*)
  - Antimicrobials like Chlorhexidine
- Concurrent oral antibiotics and treatments for the CAUSE of the crusts. It's not just shampoo.

\**Worstest* – Yes we has science terms at Johnson Vet.