

# Household First Aid

Ever had a situation where you thought, “I wish I had a **tweezers** for that **splinter of wood**” or “Where’s a **scissors** when you need one!”? To avoid this it is advisable to have a **well-stocked** first aid box or, even better, a first aid **cabinet**.

A cabinet is ideal, mounted on a wall it can be locked to keep the contents out of reach of children. You often see them in bathrooms on TV, but the bathroom is not ideal for a first aid cabinet. Bathrooms tend to be

quite warm and **humid**, which is not the correct storage for things, such as medication, that are included in the contents. The **pantry** is better as pantries tend to be unheated but not too cold, and also tend to be near kitchens where a lot of minor **mishaps** occur.

Pharmacy customer: Guten Morgen. Sprechen Sie englisch?

PTA: Guten Morgen! Ja, I mean **yes I do!** How may I help you? We just moved here from Dublin and after unpacking our boxes we realised that we haven’t got a plaster in the house! We have first aid kits in both cars, but that is not great in the long run.

Okay, so you need to stock up on the necessities, is that correct? Exactly! My husband, who is a **first-aider**, gave me a list of the items and with three boys in the house we really need them!

Right, let’s see what you need. **Adhesive strip plasters** in a variety of sizes, please.

Normal ones, or hypoallergenic? Good that you asked, hypoallergenic, please, my youngest son is very sensitive! We also need non-stick sterile **gauze bandages** and gauze compresses, and rolled, sterile, flexible bandages.

Here are the adhesive-strips and the hypoallergenic ones. How many of the sterile rolls do you need?

Two and a pack of sterile **gauze pads**, please. Oh, and do you have **eye wash cups**? They are good to have near the kitchen, especially when cutting chillies!

Yes, we have a box of 10 sterile-packaged eye wash cups here. Great! Let’s see, we need first aid tweezers for removing dirt and splinters from **cuts** and **grazes**. Do you have alcohol **swabs**, you know for cleansing and sterilizing wounds?

Yes and we also have antiseptic spray. Would you like the spray or the swabs? I’ll take both. You can’t believe the cuts and **abrasions** that my boys “collect”!

There you are. Do you need anything else? Yes please, do you have those special heavy-duty scissors?

Just a moment, I’ll check the inventory on the computer. Yes, we have scissors for cutting plasters and bandages. Good. We’re almost at the end of the list. **Crepe bandage**, triangular bandage, **bandage clips**, and a thermometer, please.

We have a few different types of thermometer. This one is an in-ear thermometer, it’s very quick, accurate and on special offer with a 25% price reduction. That is a good price! I saw them online for the same price plus **postal charges**. I think that’s everything, thank you.

You are welcome. Do you need a bag for your purchases? Yes, please. ■

*Catherine Croghan,  
Lecturer in English and native speaker*

## VOCABULARY

first aid	Erste Hilfe
tweezers	Pinzette
splinter of wood	Holzsplitter
scissors	Schere
well-stocked	gut gefüllt
cabinet	Schrank, Schränkchen
humid	feucht
pantry	Speisekammer, Vorratskammer
mishaps	Unfälle
first-aider	Ersthelfer
adhesive strip plasters	Wundschnellverband
gauze bandages	Mullbinden
eye wash cups	Augenspülbecher
cuts	Schnittverletzungen
grazes	Schürfwunden
swabs	Tupfer
abrasions	Schürfwunden
crepe bandages	elastische Binde
bandage clips	Verbandklammer, „Schwiegermutter“
postal charges	Versandgebühren