

FAQs about Warts

by Tricia Glensor

Who gets warts?

In fairy tales, it's usually the witch who has a wart on the end of her nose. But in real life, anyone can get warts. And children get more of them than adults do.

Where do warts grow?

You can get warts anywhere on your body, especially on your hands. You can also get painful warts on the soles of your feet.

Why do we get warts?

Warts are caused by a virus, just like a cold or the flu. They're not usually a problem, but they can be annoying.

People used to think you could catch warts by touching a frog or toad. But although frogs and toads may have bumpy skin, they don't, in fact, have warts.

Warts can spread from one person to another and, if you pick or scratch a wart, it can spread to other parts of your body.



How can you get rid of warts?

In the old days, people had all kinds of different ideas about how to get rid of warts. For example:

- Take a used dishcloth, rub the wart with it, and bury the dishcloth under the house.
- Rub the wart with the leather sole of a shoe. By the time the shoe wears out, your wart will have disappeared.

These days, some people suggest you could rub garlic or lemon juice on your warts. Others say to cover the warts with **duct tape** for six days. Then you soak the warts in water and gently rub them off with pumice or an emery board. Some people believe you can get rid of warts by just telling them to go away.

The truth is warts sometimes go away all by themselves. And sometimes, after you've got rid of them, they come back.

If you're bothered about your warts, it's best to go to a doctor. They can remove warts easily. But you might find that, in the meantime, your warts just – disappear!

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