

□ Sterile Towel: Definition



A **sterile towel** is a piece of absorbent material that has undergone **validated sterilization procedures** and is used in medical or surgical environments to maintain **aseptic conditions**.

□ Primary Uses

- **Drying** the surgical site after [skin cleaning](#)
- **Blotting** antiseptic without compromising sterility
- **Creating sterile fields** or serving as **barriers** during draping
- Assisting in **handling sterile instruments** or **gowning/gloving**

□ Characteristics

- **Sterile:** Packaged and sterilized (usually by autoclaving or gamma irradiation)
- **Lint-free:** To prevent contamination
- **Highly absorbent:** Usually cotton or synthetic blend
- Supplied in **single-use sterile packaging**

⚠ Best Practices

- Open package only when ready for use
- Discard if packaging is compromised or towel is dropped
- Do not use for drying hands unless part of a **sterile surgical scrub set**

□ In Neurosurgery

- Used to **blot antiseptic** on the scalp after drying (if permitted)
- Included in **surgical packs** for cranial or spinal procedures
- Must not touch non-sterile surfaces to maintain field sterility

[definition_sterile_towel_surgery_asepsis_infection_control](#)

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