

# Changing a Colostomy Bag



**PURPOSE:** To replace a colostomy bag.

**EQUIPMENT:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> Stoma measuring guide
<input type="checkbox"/> Red biohazard bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Scissors
<input type="checkbox"/> Towel	<input type="checkbox"/> Warm soapy washcloth
<input type="checkbox"/> New colostomy bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Privacy screen
<input type="checkbox"/> Colostomy clamp	

**ACTION:**

1. Explain that you will be changing the individual's colostomy bag.
2. Wash your hands and put your gloves on.
3. Place a towel underneath the pouch to protect individual's clothes
4. Remove the old bag by pushing the skin down and away from the adhesive with one hand. With the other hand, pull pouch up and away from the stoma.
5. Place old bag in biohazard bag to be disposed of later.
6. Wash around the stoma with a warm soapy rag. Pat dry with the towel.
7. Measure the stoma with the stoma guide. Allow 1/8 inch skin exposure at the base of the stoma.
8. Using the measurement from the guide, trace the correct size onto the back of the adhesive portion of the new bag.
9. Cut the hole to the appropriate size.
10. Remove the adhesive backing and stick the bag over the stoma so that the stoma fits through the hole.
11. Press gently but firmly on the adhesive backing and smooth out wrinkles to ensure a firm seal to the skin. Hold for 30 seconds.
12. Apply pouch clamp by folding opening of the bottom of the bag up about one inch. Slide clamp in the fold and close the clamp.
13. Dispose of the red biohazard bag.