

Q Can I take care of an ingrown toenail myself?

A Yes, unless it's infected (telltale signs are swelling redness, warmth and pus). "People who have diabete peripheral arterial disease or another circulatory condition should see a podiatrist," says Jeffrey R. DeSantis, a podiatrist with the American Podiatrio Medical Association. Otherwise, it's safe to DIY. Most ingrown toenails are caused by poor trimming technique; nails should be cut straight across, the edges rounded with a file. Soaking the toe in a quar of warm water with one tablespoon of Epsom salt for five to 10 minutes a day may alleviate some of the pain and swelling. After you clean the tender spot, appl a topical antibiotic cream and a bandage. If it doesn't feel better in two days, see a podiatrist.