# Monthly Newsletter The Folicare

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# **Selecting the Best Winter Boots**

Winter is colder than the other seasons of the year.

There is a need for rational selection of boots for your comfort and safety throughout the winter while your fashion and style are maintained. The look and the technical features of winter boots play important roles in selecting a good pair of winter boots.

Apart from temperature rating considerations, you should also look at the height, linings, water resistance, insulation type and traction. Also, your choice of boots may depend on their intended use, including activities such as walking, driving, sports and hiking.

The following guidelines may making in the right selection of winter boots:

### **Appropriate Warmth**

A temperature rating is an important point be considered while choosing winter boots. The temperature rating is a good comparison tool that can be used to choose among many models of winter boots.

It is worth considering that like sleeping bags, different boots will be suited to different temperatures and for different activities.

For example, warmer boots should be worn for activities snowshoeing shoveling snow, while higher boots can be used for casual walking and activities that may mixed be indoors and outdoors.

# Accepting new patients

Contact Your Foot Specialist/Chiropodist:

The Footcare Centre 905-357-0214

niagara@thefootcarecentre.ca

Suite 302. Stamford Medical Centre, 4256 Portage Road, Niagara Falls, ON, L2E 6A4

Web:www.thefootcarecentre.ca

## Oh No!!

In November, we had 24 patients that failed to attend their appointment!



## Selecting the Best Winter Boots

(Cont'd from previous page)

### **Breathability**

Winter boots are usually bulked with a number of liners. These liners are usually removable; as such it can be dried and reinserted. This affects the breathability of the boots. If your feet are sweating, they are wet and if that wetness has nowhere to escape to, you will be left with a cold foot. A boot with good breathability will keep your foot warm without making your foot sweat. If there is any moisture accumulation a breathable boot will allow for some evaporation.

#### **Traction and Size of the Boot**

The traction of the winter boot should be such that it is not slippery while navigating

on icy and slippery ground. Not everyone's feet are the same shape or size, so don't be afraid of trying on many pairs of boots before you find the right fit. There's nothing worse than sitting with soggy wet socks all day because you can't wear your winter boots without wincing in pain with every step.

## **Waterproof and Climate-proof Features**

Features that keep the feet dry and warm should be checked. Some boots are rubber which don't allow breathability. Some premium waterproof liners such as GoreTex allow for breathability while maintaining 100% waterproof. ◆



#### **Diabetic Foot Ulcers**

A diabetic foot ulcer is a complication resulting from long term or chronic Diabetes Mellitus. Diabetes can cause nerve damage resulting in insensitivity to pain. If your feet nerves are damaged, you may not feel heat, cold, or pain on the feet.

This insensitivity to pain is called diabetic neuropathy. If there is a cut or sore on your foot because of neuropathy, the cut could get worse and become infected leading to lesion and ulceration of the foot. More commonly, foot ulcers develop gradually due to a pressure imbalance. Excess pressure causes callous to form (which would normally be uncomfortable and treated, but due to neuropathy is not noticed by the patient). Eventually, excessive callous leads to skin breakdown and ulcer formation. Diabetes also affects blood flow to body parts and this could delay healing of cut, wounds and sore on the foot.

## Diabetic Foot Ulcers (cont'd from previous page)

Diabetic Ulcer treatment is usually prolonged and challenging; it may include antimicrobial drugs and topical dressings, offloading with pads or wound sandals / boots and vascular testing and management.

Patients with diabetes can help prevent their chances of developing an ulcer by complying with the following DO(s) and DON'T(s):

#### DO:

- Check the color of your legs and feet; if there is swelling, warmth or redness, or if you feel pain, see a chiropodist
- Check your feet every day for cuts, cracks, bruise, blister, sores, and infections
- Use a mirror to see the bottom of your feet if you cannot lift them up
- Clean a cut or scratch with mild soap and water and cover with a dry dressing for sensitive skin



- See a chiropodist for regular footcare
- Wash and dry your feet every day, especially between toes
- Apply good skin lotion on your heels and soles. Wipe off any excess lotion
- · Change your socks every day
- Avoid freezing and heat
- Exercise regularly
- See a chiropodist if you need a piece of advice or treatment.

#### DON'T:

- Sit for a long time
- Smoke
- · Walk barefoot inside and outside
- Wear tight socks, garter or elastics, or knee highs (unless they are prescribed medical compression stockings.
- Take a very hot bath
- Soak your feet
- Treat your own in-growing toenails or sliver with a razor or scissors

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If you would like a copy of this newsletter emailed to you every month, then please let reception know and they will ensure that your email address is added to our distribution list.

Note our new opening hours on a Wednesday. 8:00am – 6:00pm





## Diabetic Foot Ulcers (cont'd from previous page)

 Use over the counter medicine to treat foot infection (always see a qualified medical professional).

Always bear in mind that if you have any concerns about diabetic foot, do not try to treat the problem yourself. Visit your chiropodist to find out the most suitable treatment plan! ◆

## Thinking of a different gift idea - Gift cards are available

Did you know that we offer reloadable gift cards?

They are perfect as a gift for birthdays, anniversaries or special occasions.

They can also be used to save for bigger treatments plan.



# Have you had a look at our new website?

Do look and let us know what you think: <a href="https://thefootcarecentre.ca/">https://thefootcarecentre.ca/</a>

Features include in depth information on the services we offer, online booking and a comprehensive video library.

You can even view our historic newsletters and sign up to receive an email copy every month  $\bigcirc$ 

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