Keratinization

Tissue cells eventually get so far away from the basement membrane and the vascular support tissue and the cells undergo an apoptotic process. What is left behind is a sheet of keratin called the stratum corneum.

As differentiation continues, apical cells take on characteristic squamous morphology.

Within the Keratinocytes, keratin monomers are formed. Monomers then form Dimers. The Dimers form Tetramers, and tetramers form Octamers. As the process continues, polymers of keratin form double helices. The double helices themselves form helices called a super helix.

Keratinocytes form desmosomes ( ), where the interlocking junctional proteins the cytoskeletons of adjacent cells.

Stem Cells of Stratum Basalis
Divide and differentiate into keratinocytes

Basement Membrane

Loose Areolar Connective Tissue