

Environmental Management Department

Protecting Public Health and the Environment

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HANDWASHING

Introduction

Lack of adequate handwashing is a major contributing factor to foodborne illness. Many bacteria and viruses that cause foodborne illnesses can be transferred to food from contaminated hands

Critical violation

Improper handwashing, lack of soap, towels, or hot and cold running water is a major violation.

Proper handwash facilities

Maintain proper handwash facilities and set an example to encourage employees to practice good personal hygiene.

- Provide an accessible handwash sink with hot and cold running water. Do not use the sink to store kitchen items.
- Provide soap and paper towels. Check dispensers on a regular basis, and keep extra supplies on hand.
- Post handwash signs to remind employees to wash hands frequently.
- Train employees in proper handwash techniques. Explain why handwashing is important to food safety. Monitor employees to ensure good personal hygiene is practiced.

Handwashing procedure

Proper handwashing is the cheapest and easiest way to help prevent foodborne illness and it is every employee's responsibility.

Follow these simple steps:

- 1. Wet hands and arms with warm water.
- 2. Use handwashing soap and lather hands and arms.
- 3. Wash hands and arms thoroughly.
- 4. Wash for about 10-15 seconds.
- 5. Rinse thoroughly under warm running water.
- 6. Dry hands with a paper towel or a hot air dryer. Do not use cloth towels.

When should handwashing be done?

Always wash hands:

- After using the toilet.
- After coughing, sneezing, eating, drinking, smoking, or touching your skin or hair.
- · After handling soiled equipment or utensils.
- Immediately before starting any food preparation and after breaks.
- During food preparation as often as necessary to prevent contamination especially when working with raw foods and changing tasks.
- When using disposable gloves, the same rules apply. Remember: wash hands prior to wearing gloves and wash or change gloves after breaks, touching raw foods, changing tasks, etc.



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Glove Wearing Requirements

Gloves are recommended whenever hands are used to assemble ready-to-eat food or to place ready-to-eat food on tableware or in other containers.



In addition, gloves ARE REQUIRED to be worn when an employee has:

- Cuts
- Sores
- Rashes
- Artificial nails
- Nail polish
- Rings (other than a plain band)
- Uncleanable orthopedic support devices
- Finger nails that are not clean, neatly trimmed, and smooth











When Wearing Gloves

- Hands must be washed before and after wearing gloves.
- Gloves shall be changed and replaced as often as handwashing would be required throughout work shift.
- Single use gloves shall be discarded after every use.
- Do not wear gloves when:
 - They have been used
 - o They are torn or damaged
 - They have been contaminated
- Do not save gloves for "later"
- Do not reuse single use gloves



