

Reablement Service	OA Day Care	OA Residential Care	DMH Day Service	DMH Supported Living	DMH Residential Service	EIA'd
x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓

# C15

## COSHH – Cleaning Products

### POLICY

Aims to control hazardous substances at work and comply with The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) the regulations applies to a wide range of substances and preparations (mixtures of two or more substances) which have the potential to cause harm to health if they are ingested, inhaled, or are absorbed by, or come into contact with, the skin, or other body membranes.

### PROCEDURE

Staff must adhere to Cumbria County Council's Safety Procedure N°10 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) the procedure is located at <http://www.intouch.ccc/healthandsafety/safetyprocedures.asp>

COSHH covers substances that are hazardous to health. Substances can take many forms and include:

- Chemicals
- Products containing chemicals
- Fumes
- Dusts
- Vapours
- Mists
- Gases and asphyxiating gases
- Biological agents (Pathogenic Organisms Germs)

If the packaging has any of the hazard symbols then it is classed as a hazardous.

#### European symbols



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### New International symbols



### Summary:

Managers must ensure that material safety data sheets (MSDS) are retained on site for all chemicals.

Managers must ensure that COSHH risk assessments are compiled and retained on site for each chemical.

Managers must ensure that both the risk assessments and MSDS are easily accessible so that they can be given to the emergency service in the event of accidental spill, contact, ingestion, absorption and or inhalation.

COSHH risk assessments must clearly identified chemicals, there use, precautions for safe handling, conditions for safe storage, arrangements for managing accidental release, requirements for the provision of spill kits and appropriate first aid resources.

Managers must ensure that the control measures identified in the risk assessment: Are implemented and eliminate the risk or reduce the risk to a manageable level. Compliance is monitored and evidence of non-compliance is addressed and the significant findings are communicated to all relevant staff.

Managers must ensure that staff receive training in the use, safe handling, precautions for safe storage, dealing with accidental spillages and appropriate first aid responses to deal with accidental exposure including contact, ingestion and or inhalation.

Arrangements must be in place to ensure that storage, stock control and housekeeping arrangements adhere to HSE guidance SR24.

It would be beneficial to conduct emergency drills for dealing with accidental spillages and or exposure.

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### General Guidance:

Having your hands wet for a long time or having them frequently wet during the day can irritate your skin leading to dermatitis.

Some ingredients in cleaning products can cause skin allergies and asthma. Some cleaning products are corrosive and can cause skin burns and eye damage.

There are simple things you can do to prevent ill health. Preventing exposure to harmful substances usually means a combination of some of the following controls:

Use good work technique that avoid or minimise contact with harmful substances and minimise leaks and spills. Store cleaning products safely.

For some tasks, you may also need to provide personal protective equipment; protective gloves, aprons and eye protection.

Practice good hand care – remove contamination promptly, wash hands properly, dry thoroughly and use skin creams regularly.

Keep the workplace well ventilated.

Material Safety Data Sheet (Appendix 1) and an example of a generic risk assessment for ACT Toilet Cleaner Product No H005 (Appendix 2) have been provided.

### Further HSE guidance:

COSHH Essentials SR0: Advice for Managers (Appendix 3)

COSHH Essentials SR2: Diluting Chemical Concentrates (Appendix 4)

COSHH Essentials SR4: Manual Cleaning and Disinfecting Surfaces (Appendix 5)

COSHH Essentials SR24: Storing Chemical Products (Small Quantities) (Appendix 6)

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