



Solutions for End Users

- Make sure there are adequate, convenient facilities for washing and drying hands—sinks, water, soap, towels, waste receptacles, etc.
- Sustained improvement in handwashing is most often the result of administration involvement. Management needs to make a commitment to handwashing as a critical infection prevention practice. This includes demonstration of appropriate handwashing behavior by respected individuals (role models) and supportive encouragement of other staff to do so as well.
- Supervisors and administrators should support and model good handwashing behavior.
- Sites should provide educational activities and aids to make sure all staff members are aware of the importance of good handwashing practices.
- Hold regular in-service training to include information about good infection prevention practices, including good handwashing behavior.
- Hold staff orientations. Everyone at your facility—from doormen, to receptionist, to medical staff, to administrators—are part of the infection-prevention team at your site. All staff members at a facility benefit from periodic orientations and learning about critical infection-prevention techniques such as handwashing.
- Hang posters. Posters or signs listing the steps and times for handwashing can be hung in breakrooms and other staff areas to help staff become aware of appropriate handwashing practices.
- Post reminders. It's a good idea to post a reminder near eating areas and restrooms: "All Staff Must Wash Hands."

Hygiene at Work

Handwashing Statistics


- Among the general public, only 68% wash their hands after visiting the restroom (as opposed to 94% who say they do).
American Society for Microbiology
- The average handwashing compliance in healthcare institutions studied was 48%.
Annals of Internal Medicine
- In one study, only 58% of female and 48% of male middle & high school students washed their hands after using the bathroom. And of these, only 33% of females and 8% of males used soap.
American Journal of Infection Control
- Today's schools often face real barriers to handwashing. Non-working sinks, lack of soap and paper towels, insufficient time within the school day, and even vandalism can prevent regular handwashing from happening. Let the custodial/maintenance staff know how important they are and remind them how critical soap and water are to students, staff, and parents.
School Network for Absenteeism Prevention

6 Steps to Hand Washing

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1 Start with warm water to loosen the dirt.
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2 Use plenty of soap to dissolve oil and dirt and help remove bacteria.
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3 Rinse with warm water to remove the lather, dirt and bacteria.
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4 Carefully drying your hands is essential to removing bacteria.
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5 Dispose of one-use paper towels properly to prevent the spread of germs.
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6 Remember, it's better to wash too often than too little — for your health and for the health of those around you.