

Recent Changes To Health Technical Memorandum 04-01 (2016) Regarding Cleaning Shower Heads & Hoses

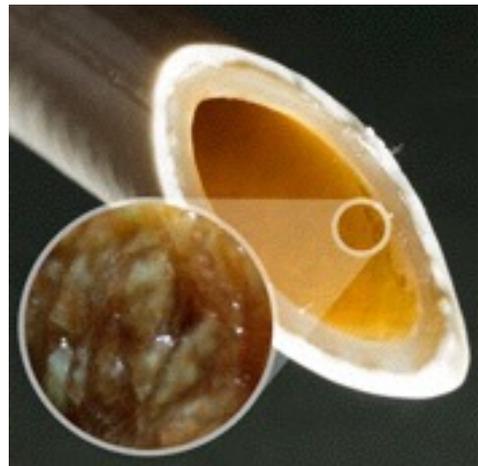


Detailed below are the relevant extracts from the most recent (2016) Health Technical Memorandums 04-01

These recommendations as well as introducing a stronger emphasis on staff competencies and the implementation of water hygiene awareness training for all staff involved in cleaning showers and hoses also details additional requirements for the cleaning of shower heads and hoses that will undoubtedly significantly impact the time and costs allocated to this task.

Biofilm is renowned as being so robust and tenacious that it often requires significant physical agitation (scrubbing) to dislodge.

The new recommended shower & hose cleaning action of dismantle, clean, descale and disinfect removable parts, heads, inserts and hoses where fitted & then flush/reassemble is now not a process than can be completed in a couple of minutes by immersing shower head and hose in an aggressive antibacterial solution once a quarter.



Health Technical Memorandum 04-01: Safe Water In Health Care Part A 2016

6.9 Scale deposition is a significant problem in pipework, reducing flow, efficiency and increasing the surface area for biofilm formation. In hard water areas, softening may well be needed to reduce risk. Generally, within healthcare premises, softening of a hard water supply may be required on feeds to the following:

to prevent sludge and limescale building up (see BS 2486) hot water services where outlets (particularly showers) are affected by limescale;

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Water Hygiene Training

6.29 Individuals to whom tasks have been allocated (supervisors and managers as well as operatives) need to have received adequate training in respect of water hygiene and microbiological control appropriate to the task they are responsible for conducting. The training and competence assessment should be clearly defined and should include those responsible for simple housekeeping tasks such as outlet flushing and the cleaning of wash-hand basins, through to maintenance staff and up to individuals who define strategy and develop procedures.



6.30 It is important that any person working on water distribution systems or cleaning water outlets should have completed a water hygiene awareness training course so that they can gain an understanding of the need for good hygiene when working with water distribution systems and water outlets, and of how they can prevent contamination of the water supply and/or outlets.

Showers

7.43 Disinfection of shower heads and angle-valve strainers has only a short-lived effect on microbial colonisation and growth. Manual cleaning to remove scale and other deposits or replacement of disposable showers should be carried out as based on the risk assessment. Traditionally this has been a quarterly task but the water quality and evidence base will influence the risk assessor's decision of the actual frequency implemented. Regular flushing of showers reduces microbial growth, but counts can significantly increase if regular flushing should cease. The most effective management of showers will be achieved by the removal of unnecessary ones and the regular use of others. Where showers are removed, it is important to cut back and remove all associated pipework (see paragraph 7.50 on the removal of redundant pipework).

Conclusion

The introduction of water hygiene awareness training for all staff involved in cleaning showers and hoses along with the increased quarterly cleaning requirement will undoubtedly increase the time allocated to this important infection control task as well as increasing the subsequent costs allocated. This makes the Ag+ replace & recycling disposable shower scheme an even more cost effective solution to your quarterly shower and hose cleaning requirement.

Cutting Costs and releasing staff for other more important tasks.



Meeting L8 is a Requirement Exceeding L8 is a Choice

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The advertisement features a background of light blue and green bokeh. On the left, a man in a white lab coat stands with a young child. In the center, two shower heads, one green and one blue, are shown. The text on the right describes the product and its benefits. A small video player icon is located at the bottom right.