

Cleaning and disinfecting a commode for Domiciliary Care settings

Best practice is to always:

- Use a bucket or sink designated for only cleaning commodes or bed pans
- Use disposable cleaning cloths and dispose of after use
- Use a general purpose neutral detergent and warm water for cleaning before disinfecting
- After cleaning, use a household bleach solution or equivalent product, as per manufacturer's instructions. Dilution of 1 in 100, e.g. 10 ml of household bleach in 1 litre of cold water. Or use a '2 in 1' product, which contains both a detergent and a disinfectant
- Ensure commodes are replaced when damaged, e.g. scratched, stained or rusted

Follow your local 'Safe disposal of waste, including sharps Policy for Domiciliary Care staff' for appropriate waste stream to be used and the 'Safe management of blood and body fluid spillages Policy for Domiciliary Care staff' if there is contamination with blood or blood stained body fluids.



1. Wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap, warm running water, dry with paper towels and dispose of.



2. Put on disposable apron. Wear facial protection if there is a risk of splashing to the eyes.



3. Put on disposable gloves.



4. Starting from the top, clean the back rest and arms (remember to clean under the arms).



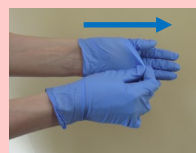
5. Remove the lid and clean the lid of the commode, topside first then underside.



6. Remove the seat, if the design allows, and clean the top then underside.



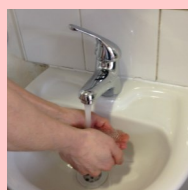
7. Clean the seat frame, legs, and then foot pedals and wheels if there are any. Dispose of cloth. Then repeat steps 4-7 using the appropriate disinfectant solution. Dispose of cloth.



8. Remove gloves (these should be removed before your apron) and dispose of. Clean hands, do not use alcohol handrub when a service user has diarrhoea.



9. Remove apron and dispose of.



10. Wash hands with liquid soap and warm running water, rinse and dry thoroughly with paper towels.