

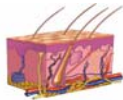
Preventing Dermatitis in Cleaners

Structure of presentation

- What is dermatitis?
- Signs and symptoms of dermatitis
- How is dermatitis caused?
- The different types of dermatitis
- How you can be exposed to substances that cause dermatitis
- How you can prevent dermatitis

Dermatitis - What is it?

- Inflammation of the skin
- It can affect all parts of the body, but it is most common to see the hands affected
- Two types
 - Irritant
 - Single heavy dose or prolonged exposure
 - Allergic
 - Repeated exposure, sensitisation



Dermatitis – signs and symptoms

- Dryness
- Redness
- Itching
- Flaking/scaling
- Cracking/blistering
- Pain



Dermatitis – how is it caused?

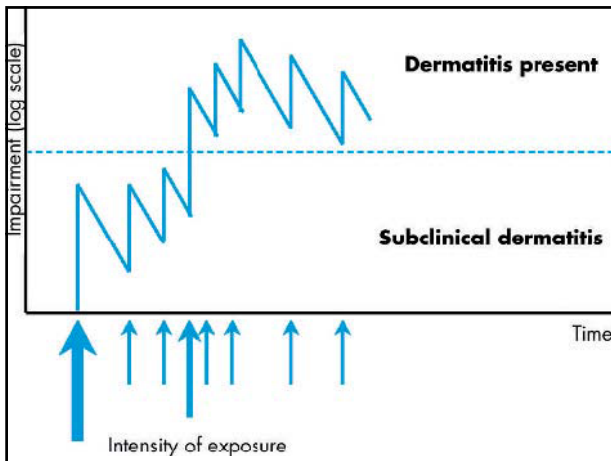
- Contact with cleaning chemicals
 - Detergents
 - Solvents
 - Bleach



Dermatitis – how is it caused?

- Contact with chemicals
 - Detergents
 - Solvents
 - Bleach
- Wet work
 - Frequent
 - Prolonged





Irritant dermatitis 




Allergic dermatitis 




How exposure can occur 



Key messages 

- Cleaners have an increased chance of suffering dermatitis:
 - Prevention is easy
 - Unchecked it could become serious and affect your job and personal life

Dermatitis – How can I prevent it? 

- It's as easy as **A P C**

Dermatitis – How can I prevent it?



- It's as easy as **A P C**

- **A**void contact with substances that cause dermatitis

Dermatitis – How can I prevent it?



- It's as easy as **A P C**

- **A**void contact with substances that cause dermatitis
- **P**rotect your skin

Dermatitis – How can I prevent it?



- It's as easy as **A P C**

- **A**void contact with substances that cause dermatitis
- **P**rotect your skin
- **C**heck for early signs of dermatitis

Avoid



Keep a 'safe working distance' between you and the cleaning products or water – use handles not hands



Protect



Wear gloves – robust rubber gloves are acceptable for most cleaning jobs unless cleaning product label tells you to wear a different type.

Choose a flock-lined glove or use a separate cotton liner for comfort.

Protect



- Be careful how gloves are taken off
- Wash them first and take off, not letting ungloved hand touch the contaminated glove
- Store correctly
- Replace when necessary



Protect



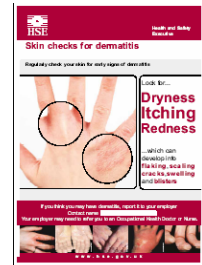
- Whenever hands are wet remove contamination promptly, dry them thoroughly afterwards with a soft cotton or paper towel
- Use moisturising creams after each hand wash
 - Ensure all parts of hands are covered
 - Barrier creams don't provide a physical barrier.



Check



- Check for early signs of dermatitis
- Who checks
 - Employee
 - Responsible person
- What next
 - Investigation
 - Follow-up
 - Reporting
 - Take action



Further Information and help



- Website: www.hse.gov.uk/skin
- HSE Infoline: 0845 345 0055
- Workplace Health Connect: 0845 609 6006
- COSHH essentials:
www.coshh-essentials.org.uk

You can prevent dermatitis



- Remember....
- **A**void contact
- **P**rotect your skin
- **C**heck for early signs of dermatitis

Health and Safety
Executive



Thank you

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Questions?