

There's a safer way to clean:

Cleaning Toilets and Urinals

The task:

Cleaning inside toilets and urinals



What's the problem?

Repetitive or sustained awkward postures, such as cleaning toilets or urinals by bending the back.



What's the solution?

To improve postures, provide:

- long-handled brushes when cleaning inside toilets and urinals
- long-handled sponges, brushes or mops to clean outside toilets
- sponges and brushes that flex to the shape of the surface being cleaned, for example, the raised edges of urinals
- a steam-cleaning machine with a variety of tools or necessary accessories to clean urinals, including inside, outside and behind toilets.



There's a safer way to clean: Cleaning Toilets and Urinals

The task:

Cleaning the surface of toilets and urinals



What's the problem?

Repetitive or sustained force, such as cleaning the surface of toilets or urinals by using force with one hand while in an awkward posture.



What's the solution?

To eliminate or reduce repetitive and sustained force, provide:

- cleaning chemicals that are safe and require less effort to use
- long-handled tools with suitable brushes that require less effort to use, such as a bristle brush
- a steam-cleaning machine with a variety of tools or necessary accessories to clean urinals, including outside and behind toilets.

Training tips:

In addition to introducing the controls above, you should also provide adequate or task specific information, instruction and training to workers. Here are some examples:

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| ▪ how certain practices can increase the likelihood of injury so that cleaners can avoid awkward postures and actions | <i>example:</i> explain how repetitive action to brush the bottom of the toilet while bending down can increase the likelihood of injury |
| ▪ performing tasks safely to avoid injury | <i>example:</i> encouraging cleaners to maintain neutral postures when cleaning toilets or urinals |
| ▪ the reason why appropriate cleaning equipment has been provided, its proper use and maintenance | <i>example:</i> explain that equipment has been provided to encourage neutral postures, and train cleaners on how to hold cleaning equipment to distribute force evenly over the hand |
| ▪ a safe work method for cleaning that is specific and designed for the task and workplace where it will be used | <i>example:</i> an example of a safe work method for cleaning toilets and urinals may include allowing chemicals to clean a surface before scrubbing, or minimising awkward postures of the hand, wrist, arm and neck |