

# Selection, Cleaning and Disinfection, and Maintenance of Patient Care Tubs

**Note:** This best practice recommendation was developed to provide Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) instruction on selection, cleaning and maintenance of AHS patient care tubs.

If you have any questions or comments contact IPC at [ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca](mailto:ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca).

## Best practice recommendations

1. Evaluate tubs before purchase
  - 1.1 Follow the AHS IPC Healthcare Facility Design Recommendations for details about tub rooms and spaces.
  - 1.2 Choose tubs that meet these IPC criteria:
    - 1.2.1 Designed and intended for use in a healthcare setting.
    - 1.2.2 Constructed of a smooth, cleanable, and durable surface.
    - 1.2.3 Manufacturer's instructions provide details on cleaning, disinfection and maintenance requirements.
    - 1.2.4 Compatible with AHS cleaning and disinfection products.
    - 1.2.5 Without jets or whirlpools.
  - 1.3 Assess chemical/product dispensing systems and select those:
    - 1.3.1 With replaceable bottles or cartridges.
    - 1.3.2 Without reservoirs to eliminate topping up of product.
  - 1.4 Consult with relevant stakeholders, e.g., Facilities Maintenance and Engineering (FME) and Linen and Environmental Services (LES).
2. Cleaning, disinfection and maintenance
  - 2.1 Clean and disinfect tubs and related components after use and when visibly soiled according to manufacturer's instructions for use.
  - 2.2 Develop department or unit specific standards and protocols that:
    - 2.2.1 Identify and schedule cleaning and disinfection tasks.
    - 2.2.2 Define roles and responsibilities, e.g., the assignment of cleaning tasks or specific equipment for the unit or area.
    - 2.2.3 Are readily available for staff, e.g., posted in the tub room.
    - 2.2.4 Include a method to differentiate clean items from soiled items. Refer to [AHS Tub Clean](#) sign.
    - 2.2.5 Include documentation of cleaning activities with the date and time, the team member's name, and the choice of cleaners or disinfectants used.
  - 2.3 For step-by-step instructions on tub and shower cleaning refer to the AHS Environmental Services 2015 Practice Support Document Protocol for Tubs and Showers ES-PROT-CLN-031.

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## Selection, Cleaning and Disinfection, and Maintenance of Patient Care Tubs | 2

- 2.4 If cleaning accessories are used, e.g., brushes, follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfection. Steps may include cleaning the brush in soapy water, rinsing, soaking in disinfectant solution for recommended contact time, rinsing and drying.
3. For information about jetted hydrotherapy tubs still in use refer to the AHS Environmental Public Health [Health and Safety Information Guide or Adult Care Facilities](#), Appendix B Hydrotherapy Tub Requirements page 17.
4. For information about cleaning thermometers refer to the [Alberta Long-Term Care Accommodation Standard, Principles of Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#), and manufacturer's instructions for the thermometer.
5. Minimize supplies in tub rooms and establish quotas and maximums for each care area. For details refer to IPC documents: [Storage of Clean and Sterile Supplies in Clinical Areas](#), section 4. Storage Containers and [Management of Patient Supplies on Discharge or Transfer](#).

### References

1. AHS. 2016. IPC Healthcare Facility Design Recommendations. AHS Insite.
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3. AHS. 2015. Environmental Services. Practice Support Document. Tubs and Showers. AHS Insite.
4. Canadian Standards Association. 2018. CSA Z8000. Canadian Health Care Facilities.
5. Public Health Ontario. 2018. Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings, 3rd Edition. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>.

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