

Working with Sewage Safety Rules

Health effects associated with exposure to sewage are related to three groups of disease:

- Infections caused by bacteria, parasites, or viruses.
- Allergies caused by proteins in micro organisms that are foreign to the human body and may cause allergic reactions.
- Poisoning or harmful effects caused by harmful gases or chemicals that may be present when working with sewage.

Following these basic safety rules will help keep you safe when working with sewage.

Do

- Keep hands clean.
- Ensure hands are washed before:
 - preparing food, eating, drinking or smoking
 - and after going to the toilet.
- Remove contaminated overalls and PPE before entering any mess area or canteen.
- Wear the correct PPE for the task to prevent skin, mouth, nose or eyes being exposed to sewage.
- Clean or dispose of contaminated PPE as soon as possible.
- Bag any contaminated PPE if it has to be transported off site for cleaning/laundry.
- Keep your emergency first aid training up to date.
- Ensure first aid boxes are correctly stocked.
- Ensure you know the correct first aid treatment for ingestion of sewage, eye injuries and needle stick injuries.
- Carry a 'pink card'.
- Maintain high levels of personal hygiene.
- Ensure anyone who has sustained a needle stick injury visits the A&E Department of the nearest hospital.
- Cover any open wounds, cuts or grazes with waterproof dressings.

Don't

- Eat, drink or smoke with unwashed/contaminated hands.
- Take contaminated PPE, overalls or clothing home to wash.
- Use final effluent to hose down in an enclosed area.

