

2 Key ways to prepare for the shift to chemical free cleaning in aged care

The 3000 year old mop, chemical and bucket method is fast becoming a process of the past for the aged care sector. Over the last 15 years, the push for chemical free cleaning has increased dramatically in the aged care sector due to its infection control benefits.



Here are 2 key ways aged care facilities can prepare for the shift in going chemical free and increase their standard of hygiene and infection control.

Create a green team

A green team involves senior managers and support staff who have a common goal and understanding of what the new chemical free cleaning process will involve. This group will be the team championing the shift and the implementation.

The green team is responsible for identifying what current cleaning processes are being used, and what are the current gaps. For example, is every touch point being cleaned, the same way, 100 per cent of the time?

It's important that each person in the team is involved in understanding the reasons of why the change is happening, what new equipment or process will be used, and how often the cleaning is to be carried out and by whom.

Having everyone on the same page from the very beginning of the new cleaning program will minimise the risk of objections and confusion later on.

Equipment planning

High temperature steam is a chemical free cleaning technology which is leading the chemical free cleaning movement in aged care.

Be on the look out for high temperature steam technology equipment which provides +165 degrees Celsius combined with 94% dry steam. Due to steam being a vapour, it is able to get into crevices that chemical and detergents can't, and is a powerful disinfectant of aged care bacteria.

It's also crucial that any steam machines purchased come with versatile tools and attachments for aged care cleaning applications, specifically for touch point cleaning. Critical areas to ensure you have the right tools for are resident rooms and bathrooms.

Murray McDonald has over 20 years experience in aged care cleaning solutions and infection control, and is Director of Duplex. Duplex is an expert in healthcare and aged care cleaning products in Australia and New Zealand. Murray is also author of the book '5 Steps to Chemical Free Cleaning in Healthcare'.

Visit www.duplexcleaning.com.au/infectioncontrol