

Handwashing and Food Handlers



Wash your hands properly and help prevent the spread of disease.



1. WET



2. SOAP



3. RUB HANDS THOROUGHLY



4. RINSE



5. DRY

Why is hand washing important?

Our hands collect bacteria from everything we touch and carry them to new places.

For example, after going to the toilet our hands can carry bacteria from our bodies to the food we prepare. Some bacteria can cause food poisoning – so by washing our hands thoroughly we can prevent food poisoning bacteria getting into food.

Why should hands be washed in a designated wash hand basin?

Commercial kitchens are required by law to have wash hand basins supplied with warm water adjacent to toilets and in the food preparation area. Wash hand basins are designed especially for handwashing and must not be used for any other purpose as the following may occur:

- bacteria from the hands may contaminate food – or remain in the sink and contaminate food later
- bacteria in the sink or on dirty dishes may contaminate hands
- chemicals used to clean dishes may contaminate hands.

Soap and towels

- Use liquid soap and single-use towels to reduce the risk of spreading bacteria. Sharing towels means you are sharing bacteria!
- Do not use tea towels to dry your hands. Bacteria from your hands will stick to the towel and spread to equipment, crockery, cutlery and food contact surfaces.

When should I wash my hands?

Before

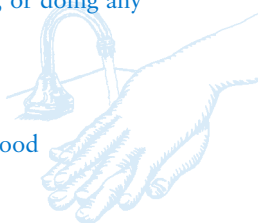
- Commencing work activities
- Handling any food

After

- Using the toilet
- Blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing
- Scratching hair, nose or any other parts of the body
- Handling rubbish, cleaning, or doing any dirty jobs
- Smoking

Between

- Handling raw and cooked food



Further information

For further information contact your local government Environmental Health Officer

or

Food Safety, Environmental Health Service,

PO Box 8172,

PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA 6849

Telephone: (08) 9388 4999

Facsimile: (08) 9388 4955

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au>



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*Let's make
it happen*

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