



Why Do You Need Safe Work Practices?

Risk Control

Once hazards have been identified and assessed as presenting a risk, action must be taken to eliminate the hazard or reduce the risk.

The best option is to eliminate the hazards but this is not always possible, e.g. Clients will always need to have a shower or bath and the shower or bath will always need cleaning.

When choosing methods for reducing the risk, options should be selected from the 'hierarchy of control'.

This is decided upon by Staff and the Director discussing the issues and developing the best plan to get the job done but with the minimum of risk.

There are several risks in this work practice, however we have made the use of caustic cleaning products the example below.

The Discussion should /could look like this:

1. We could eliminate the hazard e.g. not clean the shower.
 - a. *NO the shower must be cleaned.*
2. Substitute the hazardous bleach with a less caustic product.
 - a. *OK let's find a safer product.*
3. Even if the product is safer just in case we will protect ourselves with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
 - a. *Use personal protective clothing or equipment e.g. Support Worker wears gloves and a respirator to clean the shower.*
4. Use engineering controls e.g. redesign, ventilation, isolation e.g. open the bathroom window and/or use an exhaust fan to increase ventilation when cleaning the shower.
 - a. From now on Support Workers are to ensure that the window is open and/or the exhaust fan is on.
5. Use administrative controls e.g. write a safe work procedure on how to clean the shower SAFELY.
 - a. *After consulting with the people doing the work a clear plan is developed and put into practice to still get the job done but keep you and your Client safe.*

Always discuss any new hazard or concern with a work practice, or an idea to do it better with the Director and at Team Meetings.