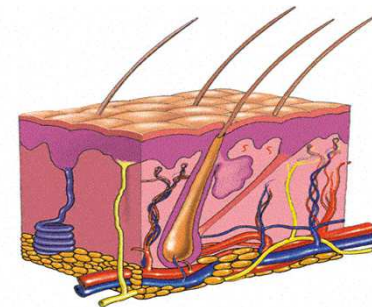

Preventing Dermatitis in Cleaners

Structure of presentation

- What is dermatitis?
- Signs and symptoms of dermatitis
- How is dermatitis caused?
- The different types of dermatitis
- How you can be exposed to substances that cause dermatitis
- How you can prevent dermatitis

Dermatitis - What is it?

- Inflammation of the skin
- It can affect all parts of the body, but it is most common to see the hands affected
- Two types
 - Irritant
 - Single heavy dose or prolonged exposure
 - Allergic
 - Repeated exposure, sensitisation



Dermatitis – signs and symptoms



- Dryness
- Redness
- Itching
- Flaking/scaling
- Cracking/blistering
- Pain



Dermatitis – how is it caused?

- Contact with cleaning chemicals
 - Detergents
 - Solvents
 - Bleach



Dermatitis – how is it caused?

- Contact with chemicals
 - Detergents
 - Solvents
 - Bleach
- Wet work
 - Frequent
 - Prolonged



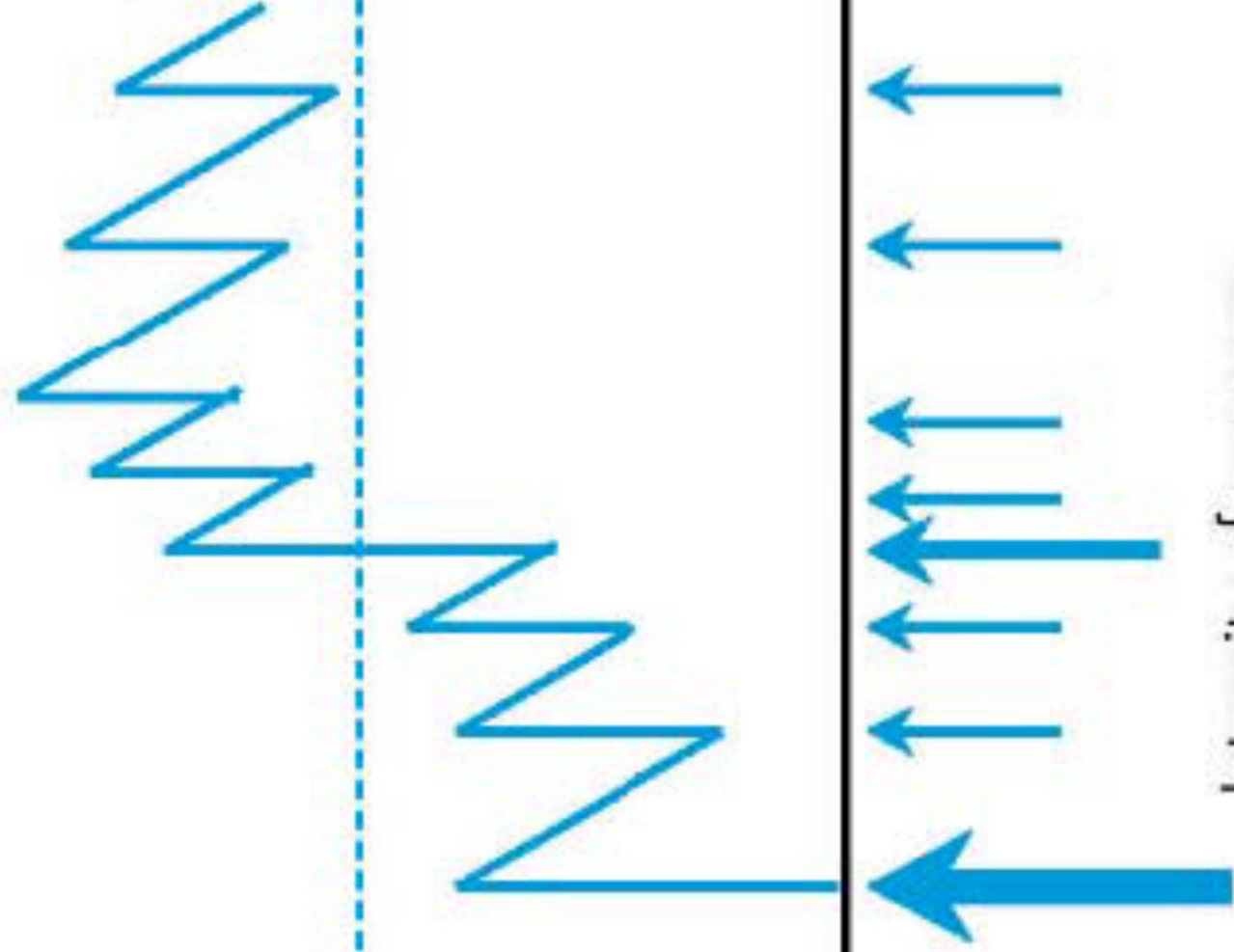
Impairment (log scale)

Dermatitis present

Subclinical dermatitis

Time

Intensity of exposure



Irritant dermatitis



Allergic dermatitis



How exposure can occur



Direct handling



Contaminated surfaces



Splashing



Immersion



Deposition

Key messages

- Cleaners have an increased chance of suffering dermatitis:
 - Prevention is easy
 - Unchecked it could become serious and affect your job and personal life

Dermatitis – How can I prevent it?



- It's as easy as **A P C**

Dermatitis – How can I prevent it?



- It's as easy as **A P C**
 - **A**void contact with substances that cause dermatitis

Dermatitis – How can I prevent it?



- It's as easy as **A P C**
 - **A**void contact with substances that cause dermatitis
 - **P**rotect your skin

Dermatitis – How can I prevent it?



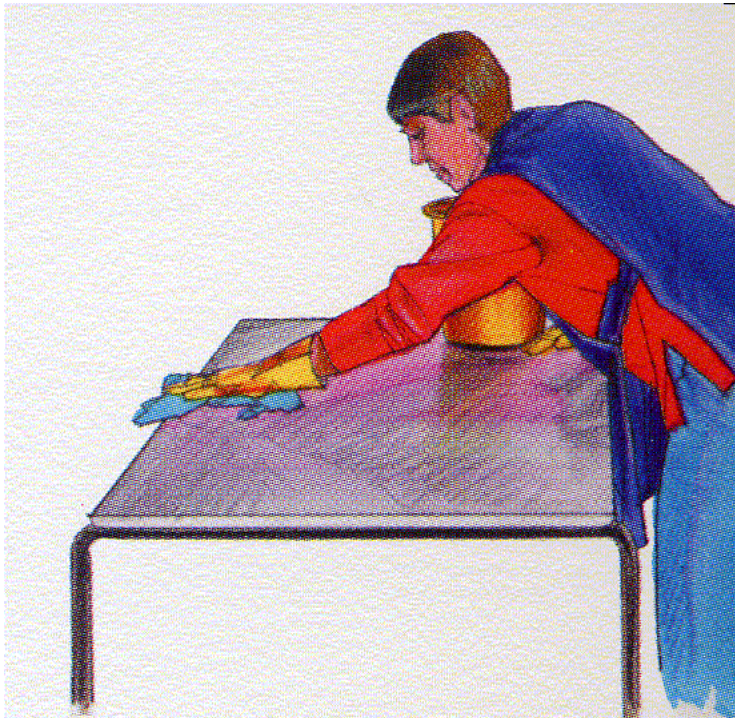
- It's as easy as **A P C**
 - **A**void contact with substances that cause dermatitis
 - **P**rotect your skin
 - **C**heck for early signs of dermatitis

Avoid

Keep a 'safe working distance' between you and the cleaning products or water – use handles not hands



Protect



Wear gloves – robust rubber gloves are acceptable for most cleaning jobs unless cleaning product label tells you to wear a different type.

Choose a flock-lined glove or use a separate cotton liner for comfort.

Protect



- Be careful how gloves are taken off
- Wash them first and take off, not letting ungloved hand touch the contaminated glove
- Store correctly
- Replace when necessary

HSE Health and Safety Executive

Correct removal of gloves

Reusable gloves (chemically resistant)

Follow the steps shown

Wipe or rinse gloves and remove carefully to protect your skin from contamination

Dispose of gloves in a suitable container

Always select the correct size gloves

Use gloves for no longer than one day

Store gloves on a clean surface for re-use

www.hse.gov.uk

The infographic illustrates the correct removal of reusable gloves in a series of steps. It begins with a person wearing blue gloves. The steps are: 1. Wiping or rinsing the gloves. 2. Carefully removing the gloves by the wrist, ensuring the ungloved hand does not touch the contaminated glove. 3. Disposing of the gloves in a suitable container, shown as a yellow bucket. 4. Storing the gloves on a clean surface for re-use. The infographic also includes a list of key points: always select the correct size gloves, use gloves for no longer than one day, and store gloves on a clean surface for re-use. The HSE logo and website address are also present.

Protect



- Whenever hands are wet remove contamination promptly, dry them thoroughly afterwards with a soft cotton or paper towel
- Use moisturising creams after each hand wash
 - Ensure all parts of hands are covered
 - Barrier creams don't provide a physical barrier.



Check

- Check for early signs of dermatitis
- Who checks
 - Employee
 - Responsible person
- What next
 - Investigation
 - Follow-up
 - Reporting
 - Take action



Further Information and help



- Skin at work website:
www.hse.gov.uk/skin
- Workplace health advice services:
www.hse.gov.uk/workplacehealth/index
- COSHH essentials:
www.coshh-essentials.org.uk

You can prevent dermatitis



- Remember....
- **A**void contact
- **P**rotect your skin
- **C**heck for early signs of dermatitis

Health and Safety
Executive



Thank you

Questions?