Guiding You to Healthy Hand Hygiene

Implementation Guide: Property Management
Hand hygiene compliance is a serious issue. Since 80% of all infections are transmitted by the hands, a property’s mission to sustain tenant satisfaction and prevent cross contamination between employees and visitors is critical. The World Health Organization recommends 5 essential elements for a successful hand hygiene program. The Compass™ program is built on a similar approach.

**Step 1 - Gaining Commitment** from all operating areas of your property is critical. Property owners, managers, cleaning personnel and tenants are key advocates to reinforce this commitment.

**Step 2 - Educating** those chosen to be hand hygiene advocates on the impact of this implementation is the next step. This guide will give you a basic education on critical facts and the positive impact a proper hand hygiene program can have on your facility.

**Step 3 - Create a Roadmap** by surveying your facility for proper placement of both sanitizing and handwashing stations. Your distributor or Betco® representative will assist in this process.

**Step 4 - Implementation** of the dispenser installation needs careful planning. Optimizing the educational function, or site zone, of the dispenser along with message reinforcement will greatly assist your hand hygiene campaign.

**Step 5 - Communication** strategy to drive hand hygiene compliance is critical. Betco® has developed several themes and support materials to implement within your facility. In addition, a suggested press release can be found that is encouraged for use to generate public awareness.
Gain Commitment

**Step 1**

**How to gain commitment**

Commitment within all levels is vital to be effective and successful in improving health and safety. This means that you, your tenants and contracted cleaning staff need to be working together.

Whether you are a property owner, property manager, or involved with the initiatives of WELL or LEED, we all share in the responsibility to keep tenants healthy and safe. Leadership and commitment from management is important in making this program successful. You can demonstrate the benefits of the Compass™ hand hygiene program a number of ways.

- Highlight how adopting a comprehensive hand hygiene program can align to your goals of tenant safety and satisfaction.
- If you are considering or are currently certified under the WELL program, this initiative heightens the intent of keeping tenants healthy.
- Create a sustainable hand hygiene program and educating those that occupy your facility. Promoting your program can help reduce cross-contamination.

Educating

**Step 2**

**When and how to wash your hands**

Keeping hands clean with proper procedures is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean, running water. If water is unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

The proper sequence for handwashing is: wet hands, turn water off, apply soap, lather using 6-step method for a minimum of 20 seconds, then rinse and dry.

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before and after eating
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the restroom
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching garbage
What should you do if you don’t have water?
Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce germs on the skin. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Alcohol hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do not eliminate all types of germs.

How do you use hand sanitizers?
- Apply the product to the palm of one hand.
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

Property Management

Teaching people about handwashing helps them and their communities stay healthy.
- Reduces the number of people who get sick with diarrhea by 31%
- Reduces diarrheal illness in people with weakened immune systems by 58%
- Reduces respiratory illnesses, like colds, in the general population by 16-21%

How do you wash your hands?
- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to follow the 6 step method which will address critical areas between your fingers and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel.

Handwashing with soap helps prevent infections because:
- People frequently touch their eyes, nose, and mouth without even realizing it. Germs can get into the body through the eyes, nose and mouth and make us sick.
- Germs from unwashed hands can get into foods and drinks while people prepare or consume them. Germs can multiply in some foods or drinks, and make people sick.
- Germs from unwashed hands can be transferred to other objects like handrails, desks, or chairs, and then transferred to another person’s hands.
- Removing germs with proper handwashing therefore helps prevent diarrhea and respiratory infections and can even prevent some skin and eye infections.

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Property Management

Step 2 (continued)

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- Removing germs with proper handwashing therefore helps prevent diarrhea and respiratory infections and can even prevent some skin and eye infections.
Not washing hands harms people around the world. The promotion of wellness in a multi-tenant facility goes a long way to increase employee productivity. A comprehensive hand hygiene program is highly complementary to any property management strategy and can increase tenant satisfaction.

- Absenteeism costs U.S. companies billions of dollars each year in lost productivity, wages, poor quality of goods/services and excess management time. In addition, the employees who do show up to work are often burdened with extra duties and responsibilities to fill in for absent employees, which can lead to feelings of frustration and a decline in morale.

- 35% of adults say they have witnessed coworkers leave the restroom without washing hands.

- 75% of break room faucet handles contain high levels of bacteria.

- A typical office worker’s hands come in contact with 10 million bacteria per day.

- Each year, 111 million workdays are lost due to the flu. That equals approximately $7 billion per year in sick days and lost productivity.

Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean, running water.
Quiz

Q1: True or False - Since half of all infections are transmitted from the hands it’s important to encourage handwashing.

Q2: True or False - There are 5 key steps to implement a successful hand hygiene program.

Q3: True or False. When water is not available, an alcohol based sanitizer should be used.

Q4: Which sequence is correct for handwashing:
   1. Wet hands, apply soap, lather using 6-step method for 20 seconds, rinse & dry
   2. Apply soap, wet hands, lather using 6-step method for 30 seconds, rinse & dry
   3. Wet hands, turn water off, apply soap, lather using 6-step method for a minimum of 20 seconds, rinse & dry

Q5: True or False - Sick time costs U.S. companies millions each year in lost productivity.

Q6: Is handwashing or sanitizing the best way to reduce the number of germs on your hands?

Q7: The most critical areas missed by not following the 6-step method of handwashing are:
   1. Palms of your hands and in-between fingers
   2. Top of your hands and under nails
   3. Top of your hands, in-between your fingers and under your nails

Q8: True or False: Implementation of this program is complimentary to green initiatives like LEED certification or WELL program.

Q9: Reasons for property manager or owner to implement a hand hygiene program are:
   1. To create good hand hygiene habits at work
   2. Compliment a strategy for keeping tenants safe & healthy
   3. Build reputation of caring and devotion to tenant health
   4. All of the above

Answers

Q2 Answer: True

Q7 Answer: 3 - The 6-step method specifically addresses these areas.

Q5 Answer: False

Q8 Answer: True

Q9 Answer: 4 - All of the above

Q3 Answer: True - An alcohol-based sanitizer can be effective at removing germs when water is not available.

Q4 Answer: True - This is an important step in keeping your hands healthy and safe.

Q6 Answer: Handwashing is always the most effective when you do it correctly.

Q1 Answer: False - 80% of all infections are transmitted by the hands.
Create a Roadmap

Step 3

It is important to make handwashing and sanitizing available, where it is needed. A critical element is to ensure proper dispenser placement with the correct type of soap or sanitizer. Your distributor or trained Betco® representative will guide this plan for you. Consider that food preparation areas require a different rated soap and sanitizer. Placement of dispensers will require ADA compliance and mounting to ensure the guiding screen is visible. Do not assume your previous dispenser placement is necessarily correct. We will verify what is compliant for your new program.

Implementation

Step 4

Implementation can feel overwhelming, especially if you have hundreds of dispenser changes. The carefully planned roadmap will take the surprises out of the equation. Your Betco® authorized distribution and installation team will minimize disruption and ensure a professional and seamless transition to your new hand hygiene program. If you have an older system and still have supply, we will complete installation in phases so you can consume your existing soap inventory. Keep in mind, this is a program that will influence the safety and well-being of your tenants and employees, this is not a product exchange.

Communicate

Step 5

During your installation, you will select messaging to post in designated areas or on the dispenser itself. Choose from posters, dispenser billboards or tent cards with themes that emphasize the commitment you have made to create a healthier community. We have also included a pre-written press release ready for your use. Send this press release to local news outlets, post on your intranet and post on social media sites that you already use.
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From:  (Name of person issuing the release)  
(Name of company issuing the release)  
(Contact Information)  

**(Company Name) Builds a Healthier Facility for Tenants with New Comprehensive Hand Hygiene Program**

**(BUILDING NAME)** announces the implementation of the new Compass™ hand hygiene program designed to keep multi-tenant facilities healthy by increasing knowledge surrounding proper hand hygiene practices.

The Compass hand hygiene program provides valuable education for a lifetime of healthy handwashing practices. Compass is a sign of **(BUILDING NAME)**’s commitment to promoting wellness among employees and tenants. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, proper hand hygiene education is the most important step in preventing the spread of illness and disease. The Compass program aligns with CDC recommendations by promoting the step-by-step instructions for proper handwashing. **(BUILDING NAME)** will place Compass soap and instant hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the facility. These dispensers will use Betco® skin care products, which include green and triclosan-free options. Compass is a highly complementary hand hygiene program to any property management strategy which can increase tenant satisfaction.

“Controlling the spread of germs in our facility is very important,” says NAME, TITLE at **(BUILDING NAME)**. “Research shows a typical office worker’s hands come in contact with 10 million bacteria per day. Reinforcing proper hand hygiene is vital to reduce workdays lost due to illnesses.”

The Compass program also includes thorough messaging that increases knowledge surrounding the importance of hand hygiene. Posters and table tents are available and will accompany the dispenser program.

Creating a healthy work environment goes a long way to increase employee productivity,” said **(BUILDING NAME)** Manager NAME. “We know the Compass program will resonate with our tenants.”

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**Sources cited:**