

### Introduction: Choose Right Cleanser & Dispenser

Once your team learns more about prevention, pick the best-suited hand cleanser and dispensing system.

The appropriate products should be available and accessible to workers where and when they are required. Creams should be located in key areas such as changing rooms, work area entrances, washrooms and hand washing stations.

Frequent hand washing is a crucial step to prevent spreading germs from one person to another throughout the workplace and ultimately to creating a healthy and productive work environment.

Credit: <http://www.ehstoday.com/industrial-hygiene/taking-hand-hygiene-beyond-hand-washing>

### Use pre-work creams

Protective pre-work creams can be used under gloves or without gloves to help prevent skin irritation and maintain healthy skin for easier skin cleansing.

### Wash hands properly and often

Apply a small amount of hand cleanser to dry hands. Rub hands vigorously together for at least 20 seconds. Scrub all surfaces, including the backs of hands, wrists, between the fingers and under the fingernails. Rinse well and then dry hands with a clean or disposable towel. Make sure to use a towel to turn off the faucet.

### Use the right cleanser for the job

There is an ongoing misconception that a hand cleanser's performance is measured by its ability to clean hands aggressively. Most cleansers far surpass the user's actual requirements. Make sure to embrace a product that takes into consideration the impact on the hands, yet still is powerful and effective for the job.

### Choose heavy-duty cleansers w/o harsh abrasives

Grit often is added to a hand cleanser to help remove substances like oil, dirt and grime. However, there are a number of scrubbers such as pumice and sand that can cause micro-abrasions or tears in the skin. The goal is to have an effective cleansing without stripping or causing damage to the hands.

### Guide to Choose the Right Cleaner & Dispenser

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Cleansing Level	Benefits	Ideal Use
Washroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many people are familiar with these general light cleansers, which can encourage handwashing compliance</li> <li>Works well for general hand hygiene and is gentle on skin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General products that successfully clean skin in office and public washrooms, showers, and leisure facilities</li> <li>Great for high-traffic facilities where effective, gentle cleaning is required for everyday dirt and grime</li> </ul>
Antibacterial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antibacterial foams help to protect from infection and to prevent cross-contamination</li> <li>Can remove vegetable oils, animal fats, and general dirt and grime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good option for washrooms and other high-traffic areas where germ and bacteria exposure can be high</li> <li>Look for options rated for use in food handling environments where employees can be exposed to foodborne pathogens</li> </ul>
Light Duty Industrial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal light duty skin cleansers for general dirt and grime and light industrial soiling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General industrial environments and industrial shower facilities</li> </ul>
Medium Duty Industrial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For use in removing synthetic &amp; petroleum based oils, greases, and lubricants</li> <li>Great option for organizations looking for cleansers that are friendly to employees' skin and the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial environments where employees are exposed to medium to heavy soiling</li> </ul>
Heavy Duty Industrial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gently removes heavy soiling such as oil, grease, carbon black and lubricants</li> <li>Contain agents to protect the skin and minimize the risk of skin irritation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For use in industrial environments to remove heavy soiling</li> <li>Heavy duty wipes provide a great option for mobile workers or environments where water is not readily available</li> </ul>
Super Heavy Duty Industrial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly effective at filling difficult-to-remove contaminants such as tar, carbon black and oil</li> <li>Silicone-free and uses natural scrubbing agents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For use in industrial environments to remove extremely heavy soiling</li> <li>Wipes provide a great option for mobile workers or environments where water is not readily available</li> </ul>
Ultra-Duty / Specialist Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silicone-free and dye-free specialist formulations with natural scrubbing agents can remove ultra-heavy contaminants such as varnish, inks, dyes and pigments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For use in industrial environments to remove specialized, heavy duty contaminants such as inks, dyes, colorants or paints</li> </ul>

### Condition hands after washing

After cleansing hands, the skin can lose important oils and moisture. Apply an after-work conditioning cream to balance and replenish the moisture in the skin.

### Use gloves where required or necessary

It's not always practical or safe to use gloves when working. Nonetheless, gloves and other personal protective equipment should be used whenever possible to shield hands from harsh irritants and contaminants.

### Report skin conditions immediately

Make sure you and the employees in your care know that if skin problems occur, they should be reported and cared for right away to prevent further damage

### Opt for solvent-free cleansers

Many industrial cleansers contain dangerous ingredients like petroleum distillates. Derivatives of crude oil, these solvents not only irritate hands but are absorbed through the skin and, over time, can lead to harmful levels of toxins in the body. Low-solvent and solvent-free cleansers are a safer option.

### Keep cleansers accessible

The location of hand-cleansing products can help increase hand washing compliance. Place them where they are easy to find and see to reinforce the importance of hand washing throughout the day.