

Cleaning and Decontamination of the Birthing Pool

Standard Operating Procedure

Clinical Guidelines ID Tag	
Title	Cleaning and Decontamination of the Birthing Pool
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Directorate	SCS
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Standard Operating Procedure

Title	Safe System of Work – Cleaning and Decontamination of the Birthing Pool
Purpose	Cleaning and Decontamination of the Birthing Pool Cleaning frequency Cleaned after each patient use and every 24 hours (as part of the daily cleaning schedule), by Midwifery and auxiliary staff.
Hazard	Chemical irritation, slip trips and falls, injuries from manual handling
PPE/Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trolley • Colour coded disposable cloths (red) • Colour coded disposable apron (white) • Colour coded gloves (non-sterile) • Eye protection (when preparing Hypochlorite solution) • Freshly prepared Hypochlorite solution (as per manufacturer's instructions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1000ppm when undertaking daily cleaning - 10,000ppm when cleaning blood/bodily fluids i.e. after each patient use • Solution of lukewarm water for rinse process • Disposable sieve • Mop handle and frame • Disposable cloth for mopping base of pool • White disposable roll
Procedure/Method	<p>Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform hand hygiene 2. Put on disposable plastic apron and gloves. 3. Empty the pool and ensure that the birthing pool is clutter free <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the thermometer from the pool prior to emptying the pool. Dispose of thermometer into clinical waste. • Remove any debris from the pool using the sieve (to prevent debris blocking the waste outlet). Dispose of sieve and debris into clinical waste. • Open the waste outlet and empty the pool.

4. Remove gloves and apron and dispose of into clinical waste.
5. Perform hand hygiene.
6. Put on disposable plastic apron and gloves.
7. Carefully place the disposable cloth into the Hypochlorite solution and follow the steps below changing the cloth as indicated.

NOTE: Disposable cloths should only be used once and never re-dipped into Hypochlorite solution.

NOTE: At all times follow a top to bottom – clean to dirty regime

Step 1

- Using a new disposable cloth damp clean the high panels and surrounding walls above the birthing pool working to the lower panels and surrounding walls behind the birthing pool.
- Using a new disposable cloth damp clean the shower wall mounted rail, and all the control knobs.
- Dispose of the cloths into household waste bag when undertaking daily cleaning. Dispose of into clinical waste bag when undertaking cleaning after patient use. Rinse with solution of lukewarm water.
- Dry all surfaces with white disposable roll.

Step 2

- Using a new disposable cloth damp clean the taps, starting at the base, then tap handles and spout, finishing gently over the tap outlet.

Do not put anything into the tap outlet and if there is a filter in place *DO NOT CLEAN IT. If the filter is blood-stained* request that estates remove and replace the filter.

- Dispose of the cloth into household waste bag when undertaking daily cleaning. Dispose of into clinical waste bag when undertaking cleaning after patient use.
- Rinse with solution of lukewarm water.
- Dry and polish taps with white disposable roll.

Step 3

- Using a new disposable cloth damp clean the outside side panels of the birthing pool and the pipework behind the birthing pool.
- Dispose of the cloth into household waste bag when undertaking daily cleaning. Dispose of into clinical waste bag when undertaking cleaning after patient use.

- Rinse with solution of lukewarm water.
- Dry all surfaces with white disposable roll.

Step 4

- Using a new disposable cloth damp clean the birthing pool starting at the top and working to the inside of the pool. Clean to arm's length stopping at the base of the pool. Do not overstretch to clean the base of the pool. Clean the seat inside the pool. Clean handrails and handle which opens the waste outlet. Clean the light and finish with the waste outlet.
- Dispose of the cloth into household waste bag when undertaking daily cleaning. Dispose of into clinical waste bag when undertaking cleaning after patient use.
- Rinse with solution of lukewarm water.
- Dry all surfaces with white disposable roll.

Step 5

- Carefully place the disposable mop into the Hypochlorite solution.
- Adjust the height of the mop handle and attach the disposable mop to the mop frame.

- Place the cloth (opened fully) on the floor.
- Slide the click frame under the edge of the mop.
- Secure in place by placing your foot on the leading edge.
- Flip the cloth under the click frame.

- Clean the base of the birthing pool using the disposable mop.
- Dispose of the disposable mop into household waste bag when undertaking daily cleaning. Dispose of into clinical waste bag when undertaking cleaning after patient use.

- Rinse with solution of lukewarm water following the same process as above using the mop handle and frame.
- Dry the base of the birthing pool with a dry disposable mop using the mop handle and frame.

Step 6

- Using a new disposable cloth damp clean the steps.
- Dispose of the cloth into household waste bag when undertaking daily cleaning. Dispose of into clinical waste bag when undertaking cleaning after patient use.
- Rinse with solution of lukewarm water.
- Dry all surfaces with white disposable roll.

	<p>8. Remove gloves and apron and dispose into clinical waste bag.</p> <p>9. Perform hand hygiene.</p> <p>10. Close ventilation by either turning the extractor fan off or closing the window</p> <p>11. On completion, document and sign the Birthing Pool Cleaning Record.</p>
	<p>Flushing of pool taps</p> <p>Prior to each patient use and twice daily the pool taps should be run for 3 minutes.</p>

Use appropriate signage to indicate cleanliness of the birthing pool.

CLEAN POOL

**DIRTY POOL –
NEEDS CLEANING
PLEASE**

1. www.activebirthpools.com
2. RCOG/RCM (2006) Joint statement No.1 Immersion in water during labour and birth.