

RECOGNIZING SKIN DISEASE AND WHAT TO DO

CLEANERS ARE AT RISK

Work-related skin disease is common in many industries, especially those involving cleaning and janitorial services. Contact dermatitis – a skin rash like eczema – is the most common. It can be itchy or painful, red, scaly, blistering, cracking or bleeding.

ARE YOU AT RISK?

All of the following workplace practices can cause skin disease:

- Wet work can cause irritant contact dermatitis
- Contact with cleaning chemicals can cause both irritant and allergic contact dermatitis
- Friction (e.g. scrubbing) can cause irritant contact dermatitis or aggravate other skin problems

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU DEVELOP A SKIN PROBLEM OR AN EXISTING SKIN PROBLEM GETS WORSE?

Many skin problems get harder to treat the longer you have them. It's important to ask for help as soon as you think you might have a problem.

- Let your supervisor know
- See a health care provider
 - This may be someone at work or your family doctor
 - Tell them the things you are exposed to at work (i.e. obtain the Safety Data Sheets to show the doctor)



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