

Cleaning and Disinfection of Birthing Pool

Purpose

To control environmental contamination and maintain/ensure a hygienic environment for women and their infants.

Scope

This procedure applies to all Lead Maternity Carers, Midwives, Nurses and Healthcare Assistants at Christchurch Women's Hospital and all CDHB Primary Birthing Units.

Infection Prevention and Control recommends that only non-jet baths and birthing pools are used. Spa baths with water jets may be a potential contamination risk.

Associated documents

CDHB IPC Policy - Decontamination of Equipment

CDHB IPC Policy - Decontamination of the Environment

CDHB Women Health Service, The use of water in labour and birth (July 2016)

Equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Sieve

Detergent

Cleaning cloths

Sodium hypochlorite disinfectant & dilution containers

Alcohol-based disinfectant wipes

Signage – dirty or clean sign to hang over bath as appropriate

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Printed copies may not reflect the most recent updates.

1. Cleaning before each use

If pool has not been used for 24 hours, wash with hot water and detergent and rinse well.

Hot tap should run for several minutes before filling the Birthing Pool.

2. Cleaning & Disinfection after each use

Step	Action
1	The sieve used to remove organic matter is single patient use and must be disposed of as medical waste along with the used pool plug.
2	Plastic apron, eye protection and disposable gloves must be worn.
3	Rinse the pool of any debris that may have collected on the pool surface, base and around the plughole, with warm running water.
4	Using a clean cloth, clean the entire pool surface with detergent & water, paying particular attention to the plughole and water line. Discard the cloth.
5	Rinse the pool with water from top to base and dry with a clean cloth. Discard the cloth.
6	Make up a solution of sodium hypochlorite to 1,000 parts per million in a clean, plastic jug dedicated for this purpose. (4 x 0.5g Presept tablets per litre of water)
7	Pour the diluted sodium hypochlorite solution carefully and evenly over the pool surfaces ensuring an even distribution, working from top to bottom and paying particular attention to the plughole.
8	Allow a contact time of 10 minutes for the diluted sodium hypochlorite solution on the pool surface.
9	Rinse the pool with warm water from top to base and dry it with a clean cloth. Discard the cloth.
10	The person responsible for cleaning the pool puts a sign on the bath to indicate that it is clean and ready for use
11	Pool thermometer, aqua doppler, mirror and plug puller (if used) are cleaned with detergent & water, dried then disinfected with dilute sodium hypochlorite solution or an alcohol-based wipe if the equipment is electronic.
12	Use a new plug for each patient using the pool.

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References

CDC: Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities (2003)

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists & Royal College of Midwives (RCM) 2006, *Joint Statement No. 1*, London: RCOG/RCM.
Available http://www.waterbirth.org/assets/s/rcog_rcm_birth_in_water.pdf

Procedure Owner	CDHB Infection Prevention & Control Service
Procedure Authoriser	CDHB Executive Director of Nursing
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BIRTHING POOLS

Cleaning & Disinfection Instructions

BEFORE USE:

If pool has not been used for 24 hours, wash with hot water and detergent and rinse well.

- Hot tap should run for several minutes before filling the birthing pool

AFTER USE:

- Wear plastic apron, eye protection and disposable gloves
- Empty water after use, dispose of plug and sieve
- Clean well with detergent & water over the entire surface and taps. Discard cleaning cloths
- Rinse well
- Dilute sodium hypochlorite solution (4 X 0.5 gram tablets) Presept per litre of water and pour slowly over inside bath surface & leave for **10 minutes**.
- Rinse off Presept solution.
- Dry entire inside surface with clean cloth.
- Wash mirror, pool thermometer, aqua doppler and plug puller if used with detergent & water. Dry then disinfect with dilute sodium hypochlorite solution or an alcohol-based wipe if the equipment is electronic. Leave to dry.
- Hang 'clean pool' sign over bath.

CLEAN POOL

**DIRTY POOL –
NEEDS CLEANING
PLEASE**