

## ULTRA ACCESS World Hand Hygiene Day

Keeping hygienic (and safe) whilst handling scaffolding...

World Hand Hygiene Day occurs today, on May 5th.

Question: Why is good hand hygiene imperative for everyone, not just scaffolders? (Obviously ULTRA ACCESS being primarily a scaffolding (and safety) consultancy, we do tend to concern ourselves with more scaffolding-related issues, which is what we'll discuss in this publication).

Many trades working within the different sectors, who rely heavily on their hands to manually get the job done are potentially at risk of contracting various bugs and diseases through hand to mouth contact. Scaffolders especially, with the large majority of our daily work consisting of manual handling tasks.

PPE in the form of protective gloves help, no doubt, but as highlighted frequently throughout the safety world, PPE is usually considered a last resort and is even stated as such in the "Hierarchy of Risk".

Proactive hand cleaning would be the optimal solution over and above PPE, which is only effective whilst its being worn.

You probably wouldn't be wearing gloves whilst using the toilet, eating lunch, or smoking a cigarette...

This would be a particular issue for "Street-Work Scaffs", with many times the only places to clean up would be a Pub, a Cafe, or a McDonalds - most usually a fair walk to get to.

Dogs urinate up the Standards, Cats spray and Rats are common (who urinate regularly) - especially in large cities, and then there's people... who use the little dark corners under scaffolds as urinals.

Then there's Bird and Pigeon droppings, which are not just dangerous if the fibres are breathed in, and could cause parasites to end up in your stomach, from eggs in the droppings - including Roundworms, Hairworms, Tapeworms... none of which are particularly nice.

Scaffolding materials are hardly ever cleaned - except rainwater, so theres probably all kinds of germs and bugs crawling all over them.

A simple, and effective solution would be carrying anti-bacterial wet wipes and some hand sanitiser spray in your kit bag... better to be safe than sorry, and could save lost unpaid time off due to stomach bugs.

ULTRA ACCESS  
Scaffold Technical Support

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