

Wipe clean

Industrial strength wipes can be a part of your overall cost saving strategy when it comes to local authority building and maintenance teams, explains Corinna Palin.

On a daily basis, service teams and contractors looking after the building and maintenance of local authority and housing association properties have to deal with both the grease and grime of current or previous tenants. In addition, they need to keep themselves and the work area clean of fix and repair products including silicone sealants, paints, adhesives, PU foam and general dirt — which can be hard to remove. It is vital to protect both the service teams and the properties from these potentially aggressive substances.

Industrial strength wipes such as Big Wipes should contain a blend of cosmetic grade solvents to effectively remove the grime, plus have added skin conditioners combining antibacterial properties that can offer a comprehensive level of portable protection in one convenient package. The wipes are highly effective, economical, safe for use on hands, tools and all sealed surfaces.

Grime removal

Industrial grade wipes combined with the same liquid formulation offered in a convenient trigger spray, such as Big Wipes Power Spray, can clean and degrease a whole property, including PVC-U windows and older runs of silicone. The same wipes can then be used to keep the service teams free of grime while they work. Paints, adhesive and sealants are easy to over-apply or can be kicked over by accident, causing



visual, and sometimes permanent, damage to hard floors, walls and furniture. These spills and leaks become costly if teams are snagging after a building's refurbishment, or if they are preparing housing association properties, getting them into an acceptable condition before new tenants arrive.

A spill or accidental leak of any material at this stage can lead to complaints, costly call backs or a delay in a job being signed off as complete, which could all combine to impact on the contractor's reputation.

The use of industrial strength wipes can save local authority maintenance



departments thousands of pounds in lost time by quickly clearing spills before they cause permanent damage and potential call backs. Cost savings even extend to reduced cost of replacing and laundering work wear, as hands pre-cleaned with industrial wipes are no longer a grime hazard to clothing. Vans and vehicles also stay in better condition if a tub of wipes is mounted in racking or in a Big Wipes van bracket, as the work place grime can be removed before it enters the cab. This also has the added benefit of your team arriving clean and ready for their next job.

Health and safety

Industrial strength wipes also help to solve a health and safety issue for maintenance teams. According to the latest Health and Safety Executive (HSE) figures available, there are over 20,000 people suffering from work-related skin diseases with around 7,000 new cases diagnosed every year. For many managed services teams, cleaning hands effectively while still being able to care for them is extremely important. Speedy removal of irritants is essential as skin disease on the hands can be debilitating and has serious implications when trying to continue with work.

The skin is your body's largest organ and is its protective barrier. However, if harmful substances accumulate on your skin, that barrier can be broken and leave hands sore and inflamed and with the potential to cause long-term health issues. Skin disease can be incapacitating for the

sufferer, meaning that work becomes difficult and livelihoods are put in jeopardy.

There are common signs of skin problems to look for on hands such as dryness, redness, cracking or swelling of the hands and fingers as well as blisters, flaking and itching. Workers can develop these symptoms as they come into direct contact with substances commonly used on site. If you are immersing your hands in liquids, or getting them splashed on a regular basis then your hands may suffer. Contact with contaminated tools or surfaces can also lead to harmful substances landing on the skin, causing a problem.

Portable cleaning solutions

Companies such as Big Wipes, which specialise in industrial strength wipes, manufacture formulas that are preservative free and mainly water-based. In addition to four powerful cleaning agents, Big Wipes 4x4 contains four dermatologically tested skin conditioners: Aloe Vera, Lanolin, Vitamin E and Glycerine — all helping to nourish and



protect the skin. The range has been assessed to the latest EU Regulation 1223/2009 for cosmetic products with zero levels of irritation recorded during controlled testing by dermatologists. The range also offers >99.9% antibacterial protection for your skin. All Big Wipes are used without water and thus are perfect for on-site use where water is not available.

We have calculated that when you take into account the potential cost of damage caused by spillages and leaks of building materials, using industrial strength wipes actually saves a maintenance company or department more than they cost. They provide a totally portable cleaning system that safely powers through and captures all types of construction muck and grime.

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