

Orange Sky wants friends to be empowered to operate our laundry and shower facilities with the support of volunteers. We must encourage friends to do their own washing and handle all of their belongings themselves.

Volunteers are required to wear disposable impermeable gloves if required to handle friends' washing, when cleaning showers and when handling any of the following:

- sharps/needles and other foreign objects (in the laundry, washers/dryers, shift environment);
- chemicals (cleaning products);
- waste bins / sanitary bins (including their contents);
- wastewater (including when handling wastewater hoses).

Why is wearing gloves important?

Avoiding skin contact with the above items will assist to prevent personal injury and illness, which can be caused by:

Source and type of injury/illness	Exposure	Transmission
Infectious micro-organisms such as bacteria (eg Staphylococcus infection, tetanus), viruses (eg HIV, Hepatitis B and C) and fungi which can be found in body fluids (e.g. vomit, faeces, urine, blood).	Unwashed laundry, used towels, shower mats, needles, razors, other sharp objects, waste bins, sanitary bins, wastewater, cleaning up body fluids/substances.	Through broken skin (cuts or scratches), puncture or sharps injury.
Parasites, such as lice, mites which can cause moderate to severe skin irritation requiring medical treatment	Unwashed laundry, used towels and contaminated washers/dryers.	Through direct contact and indirectly through contact with clothing, towels, bedding etc.
Chemicals such as cleaning products that can cause skin irritation, dermatitis and/or chemical burns.	Cleaning products for washers, dryers and shower recess.	Contact with intact skin or broken skin.

Note: laundry washed in cold water may still contain infectious micro-organisms and parasites, therefore avoid skin contact with all laundry, towels/mats by wearing disposable impermeable gloves.

What are disposable impermeable gloves?

Disposable impermeable gloves are single-use gloves that don't allow fluid to pass through. Orange Sky approved gloves are **Nitrile powder-free gloves**. Nitrile gloves are stronger than latex gloves. They are also more resistant to chemicals, have higher puncture resistance and are much more durable than vinyl or latex. Gloves are available from the Orange Sky Parts Store. Inform your Vehicle Leader or mention it in the Shift Report when supplies are low.

This guide should be read in conjunction with the following Orange Sky resources:

- *Sort, wash and dry laundry*
- *Cleaning up body fluids and substances*
- *Handling and disposal of needles and sharps*