

# Handy way to keep your skin clean

In the course of a day, the average installer is likely to come into contact with harsh and caustic substances that may have the effect of damaging the hands and making manual work difficult. Big Wipes looks at some of the risks and highlights ways to protect the hands.

Keeping a new Fein Multimaster, DeWalt drill, or Testo analyser in pristine condition may be a top priority for some plumbers and heating engineers, but a tradesman's most valuable tools – his hands – are often overlooked. Painful hands may result in a day's lost work, so it's important to keep them safe, clean and protected.

Sore, cracked and dry hands can be regarded as just part of the job for plumbers who get caked in sealant and grouts, and whose hands are in and out of water all day long. But working environments are not always bacteria-free and there may not be running water to wash hands.

## The risk

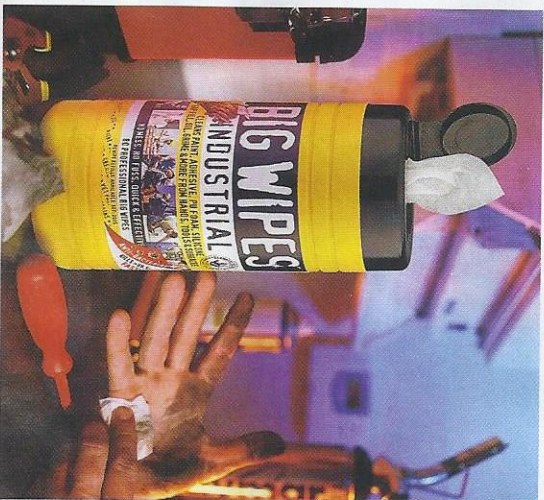
GPs reported around 136 new cases of occupational skin disease per 100,000 workers between 2008 and 2010. Although cases fell between 1996 and 2010, it is still a serious issue for employees and employers, with between 96,000 and 367,000 working days lost due to skin disease in 2001/2.

Irritated skin caused by a foreign substance leads to inflammation, blisters, rashes or burning skin and can easily be prevented or solved by simply keeping it clean.

Nigel Dibbo, MD of Big Wipes, says: "Plumbers and heating engineers have their hands in and out of all sorts all day – and the nature of plumbing often means there isn't even any running water in which to attempt to get some of the gunge off.

"Hands are a workman's most valuable tool, but with damaged hands, jobs from the most intricate pipe-fitting to lifting heavy objects become difficult and painful.

"That's why Big Wipes are an ideal addition to a tool box for every tradesman on the move. They are quick and easy to use with



Clean hands are happy hands: Irritated skin can be avoided simply by keeping it clean with gentle products



no mess, no fuss – and they work on pretty much everything. With their 'one wipe shifts the lot' formula, Big Wipes shift muck and make light work of dirt and grime, as well as being anti-bacterial, to get rid of unwelcome germs.

"And with products containing skin conditioners Aloe Vera and Vitamin E, your other half will be pleased when you start coming home with soft hands!"

Big Wipes cut through everything from stubborn PU expanding foams and adhesives to silicone sealants and epoxy grouts. Its unique formula means you can clean-up wherever you are and wipe away the risk of damaging your hands permanently. And the fact they can be thrown in the bin as soon as they have been used reduces the chance of contamination, which can be caused by wiping hands on towels, rags or trousers.

The Big Wipes range is suitable not only for skin, but work areas and tools too. Nigel adds: "Keeping your tools and customers' homes clean is a must. Big Wipes are ideal for this, as they will leave them grime free and gleaming, but you must remember to clean your hands too: they're too valuable for you not to!"

## Medical case

With around 40,000 new cases of work-related contact dermatitis reported annually, exposure takes its toll and can leave sufferers in crippling pain. So what is work-related contact dermatitis? It's the inflammation of skin after contact with a foreign substance.

Contact with harsh and abrasive substances affects the top layer of protective skin. The result is dry, red and itchy skin, usually the first symptoms, but this can deteriorate into a painful condition if not treated. Blisters, swelling,

flaking and cracking of the skin could come next. Prevention can be as easy as keeping your hands clean with a dermatologically tested wipe such as Big Wipes.

Big Wipes offers a number of grime-ridding products that deliver top cleaning power, health and safety and convenience. All products contain a fully biodegradable cleaning formula that complies with all the latest EU Cosmetics Standards and are dermatologically tested, anti-bacterial and contain the skin conditioners Aloe Vera and Vitamin E. And now a bracket is available for securing inside the back of your van to hold all Big Wipes 80s tubs with no fuss.

The range includes Industrial Big Wipes, Big Wipes Industrial Plus, and Big Wipes Industrial Green. The Industrial plus product has the same cleaning formula s Big Wipes Industrial, but with a high performance dual-sided fabric for the really tough stuff. The smooth face side of the wipe soaks up the muck. The Green wipes are 100% biodegradable and are great for ridding non-hazardous substances. They can be put straight into the recycling bin.

BIG WIPES

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## Ten Big Wipes

### Bonus Boxes to be won!

We're giving Big Wipes Bonus Boxes to ten lucky winners. Each box, worth £40, contains one Industrial Wipes tub, One Industrial Plus+ tub and two packs of 20 handy wipes for each product. To be in with a chance of winning, just enter the number above on the freepost reader enquiry and registration card inside this issue. Winners will be drawn at random.





# PHAM NEWS

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## Energy saving scheme gets government green light

October sees the official launch of the Green Deal which aims to help homes and businesses fund energy efficiency upgrades to their properties. Pilot schemes have been set up in seven major cities.

With the October launch of the long-awaited Green Deal, the Coalition Government is hoping to start a revolution in energy efficiency across the UK's aging building stock. Described as the biggest home improvement programme since the Second World War, the aim of the scheme is to help property owners install energy saving technologies, such as high efficiency condensing boilers, at no up front cost to themselves.

The launch means that Green Deal providers, assessors and installers can start to become authorised, and display the Green Deal Quality Mark, and put in place their systems for delivering assessments to consumers – although consumers won't be able to sign up to a Green Deal finance plan until 28th January 2013.

High expectations have accompanied the launch, with Government claiming that the Green Deal will stimulate the low carbon economy by supporting up to 60,000 jobs in the insulation sector alone. With as many as 45 energy efficiency measures included in the scheme, the Green Deal is expected to deliver £1.2 billion worth of energy efficiency



Energy Secretary Ed Davey has high hopes for the Green Deal Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield will have access to a £12m fund to support their own carbon reduction plans as they test the key elements of the Green Deal. Energy Secretary Edward Davey says: "These cities have ambitious plans to lower their emissions, reduce energy use and help people save money on their bills. I've been really impressed by

This new funding will test aspects of the Green Deal framework like assessment and installation, and provide early feedback. Initial indications suggest that the cities expect to deliver around 2500 retrofits to households and non-domestic properties.

The success of the Green Deal is considered critical to the future of a low carbon Britain. Paul Hicks, Design Manager for Velux, says that if the Green Deal fails to win over the public, it could be a "kick in the teeth" for the wider energy efficiency retrofit market. He calls for assurances that the 'Golden Rule' – which requires that the cost of any efficiency measure be equal to or less than the expected saving – is properly applied.

Roger Webb of the HHIC says: "It is important to realise that the installer has a huge influence over the consumer's purchasing decisions, so has a crucial role in determining the level of Green Deal uptake." That said, he adds that the small installer is unlikely to play a large part in the scheme due to the structure of the programme. "There must be appropriate

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