

Hands are the most valuable of tools

With grime a major cause of skin disease Corinna Palin, international marketing manager at Big Wipes, explains why industrial strength wipes are a must for heating and plumbing engineers...

More than most trades, heating and plumbing engineers understand that grime builds up easily and the consequences can be extremely irritating on your hands and skin. Whether you are working in bathrooms or kitchens, very often the types of muck plumbers encounter are extremely unpleasant. Heating engineers who install fossil fuel appliances, such as oil boilers, know that if accidentally spilt, substances like oil can be a real nuisance to clean up, not to mention an irritant on cracked skin.

DEBILITATING SKIN PROBLEMS

Hands are without doubt an installer's most valuable tools, but thousands of tradespeople spend their days with their hands caked in dirt or harsh substances without having access to the facilities to clean them up. Even when soap and water are available, they just won't shift the majority of modern construction and maintenance products. PU foam, silicone and varnishes are nasty stuff to get on your hands and without the ability to remove them quickly, can cause debilitating skin problems.

According to Health and Safety Executive figures, there are over 20,000 people suffering from work-related skin diseases with around 7,000 new cases diagnosed every year.

Solvents, cement, resins and cutting fluids are some of the most common causes of irritant contact dermatitis, so it is no wonder



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construction workers have one of the highest rates of developing this skin disease – something that can severely affect a person's ability to work.

Heating and plumbing engineers, therefore, need easy access to high-quality hand cleaners and industrial strength wipes are the answer.

Stored in tubs, (which can be kept in the door buckets of vans, or on van racking systems with

special brackets), they are highly portable while those coming in handy sachet packs can be kept in pockets or glove compartments. They can remove dirt and construction materials from hands and tools swiftly and more thoroughly than soap and water.

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BIG WIPES: THE PERFECT FIT FOR ON-SITE USE

One of the best ways to avoid contact dermatitis is to wash hands and apply a moisturiser after washing, so it is important to point out that the best wipes will include moisturisers that protect hands.

Big Wipes, for instance, are used without water and thus are perfect for on-site use where water isn't available. The 4x4 formulation is not only preservative free and mainly water-based, but also has four powerful cleaning agents, plus four dermatologically tested skin conditioners: Aloe Vera, Lanolin, Vitamin E and Glycerine – all helping to nourish and protect the skin.

The range has also been assessed to the latest EU Regulation 1223/2009 for cosmetic products with zero levels of irritation recorded during controlled testing by dermatologists and also offers >99.9% antibacterial protection for skin.

There are three different types of Big Wipes 4x4: red top Heavy-Duty are double sided with

an abrasive side to remove stubborn grime and a smooth side to soak up the muck; the black top Multi-Purpose wipe is made from a three layered, non-woven quilted fabric which makes it highly tear resistant and super tough; and the green top Multi-Surface wipes are fantastic at cleaning all surfaces, exceptionally absorbent and being made from a natural material, can be thrown on the compost heap after use.

Using a powerful, fast-acting antibacterial cleaning spray, such as Big Wipes 4x4 Power Spray, is ideal for pre-treating larger areas such as walls, floors or window frames before wiping them free of dirt.

Its speedy removal of muck means you can also save time and money by fixing accidents quickly and effectively. This is especially useful to plumbers when they are making good, or when accidents and spillages happen from time to time.

In many ways, wipes and sprays can be your



first line of insurance against damage or making an "OK job" absolutely perfect.

What's more, many domestic clients will hire their plumbing and heating engineers on professional appearance, and tidy tradespeople, who have the means to clean work areas and themselves up, surely have an advantage over those who don't.

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