



Section 12
Sanitary Standards



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This section looks at regulations related to:

- sanitation in toilet and washing areas
- bathing and diapering procedures for infants
- requirements for garbage removal, storage and pick-up

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34

A child day care facility must have flushable toilets and washing areas that are satisfactory, in the judgment of the Health Officer, for the maximum number of children permitted in the facility.

35(1)

The toilet and washing areas of a child day care facility must have an adequate supply of soap and hot and cold running water.

35(2)

Single service disposable washcloths and towels must be provided for use in the child day care facility.

Regulation 34

Toilets and Washing Areas

Regulation 35(1)

Hand Soap and Running Water

Regulation 35(2)

Washcloths and Towels

Why

- To provide adequate bathroom and washing facilities and supplies for children, staff and volunteers
- To ensure cleanliness and prevent the spread of germs

What it means

- The EHO will determine if the flushable toilets and washing areas are satisfactory.
- Washing areas must have an adequate supply of liquid hand soap, disposable wash cloths, disposable towels, and both hot and cold running water.
- If reusable washcloths and towels are used, they must be clearly labeled for each child and washed every day, to ensure there is no cross contamination and spreading of germs.
- Annual inspections by the Regional Early Childhood Officer and EHO will include checking toilet and washing areas and procedures. See *What to do if an inspector requires improvements*, after Regulation 2(7).
- If a facility does not have flushable toilets the operator should ask the Minister to exempt the facility from the requirements of Regulation 34 and use a chemical toilet instead.

How

- Have at least one flush toilet and one wash basin for every ten children.
- If possible, toilets, sinks, and counter tops should be an appropriate size and height for children.
- When toilets are not child-size/height provide step stools and/or training seats, or potties as necessary.
- Make sure children can easily reach toilet paper.
- Flush toilets or empty potties after each use.
- Clean and disinfect toilets and potties after each use.
- Have plenty of liquid hand soap, and wash cloths and towels at each washing station.
- Teach children proper hand washing technique and assist them as necessary, to prevent the spread of germs.
- Make sure children can easily reach the liquid soap, wash cloths and towels.
- Make sure school-age children have privacy when using the toilet.
- Post and follow the schedule for cleaning and sanitizing toilets, sinks and surrounding areas.
- When building or renovating a child care centre include child-size toilets and wash basins, with toilet paper, wash cloth and towel dispensers at an appropriate height.

36

Every operator providing care for children less than 18 months of age shall provide bathing facilities for those children and ensure that each child is attended by a staff person at the time of bathing.

Regulation 36

Bathing Facilities for Infants**Why**

- To provide supervised bathing facilities for infants and young children

What it means

- The operator must have facilities for bathing infants and young children as needed – for example a regular installed bathtub, infant-size bathtub or large sink within the washroom area.
- Children who require washing or bathing must be attended to at all times by the operator or a staff member.

How

- Ideally, facilities have a regular installed bathtub with hand held shower head, or an infant-size tub, laundry tub or oversized sink.
- **DO NOT** bathe children in an area where food is prepared.
- Have a stack of clean towels available, and wash them after each use.
- Make sure that when children are bathing they are directly supervised by the operator or a staff member and assisted as necessary.
- **NEVER** leave a bathtub filled with water unattended.

37

(1) Every operator shall provide a diapering area that meets the approval of a health care professional for all children who require diapering

(2) Where a diapering area is provided in a child day care facility, procedures must be developed by the operator for its use.

Regulation 37(1) and (2)

Diapering Area and Diapering Procedure

Why

- To provide a specific area and procedures for diapering children
- To prevent the spread of germs

What it means

- The EHO will determine if the diapering area is satisfactory.
- The operator must follow Nunavut diapering procedures.
- Annual inspections by the Regional Early Childhood Officer and EHO will include checking the diapering area and procedures. See *What to do if an inspector requires improvements*, after Regulation 2(7).

How

- Follow diapering procedures as recommended by the EHO.
- Make sure any diapering area:
 - is separate from food preparation and eating areas,
 - contains a firm non-porous surface (table or diapering pad) that is easily cleaned and sanitized after every use,
 - has hand-washing facilities,
 - contains liquid soap and single serve towels,
 - has individual diapers, wipes, and creams labeled and stored separately for each child, and
 - has special metal waste containers with lids that operate by a foot pedal.
- Develop and follow a step-by-step diapering procedure that ensures the health and safety of staff, children and all others with access to the diapering area.
- Post the procedure within view of any diapering area.
- Centre operators, provide training to staff and ensure they follow the procedure at all times.

38(1)

Garbage and refuse must be:

- (a) removed daily from the child day care facility to a storage area meeting with the approval of the Health Officer; and
- (b) removed weekly from the storage area to an area established for the disposal of community garbage and refuse.

38(2)

The Health Officer may require garbage and refuse to be removed more frequently than is required under subsection (1).

Regulation 38(1)(a) and (b) and 38(2)

Garbage Removal**Why**

- To ensure that garbage and refuse are removed from the child care centre in a timely and sanitary manner.

What it means

- Garbage means waste that comes from the preparation, cooking, handling or eating of food – e.g., food scraps, meat wrappers, food past the best before date, disposable diapers, and any other discarded, solid material, such as paper, boxes, cans, plastic containers, broken toys, etc.
- Garbage must be removed from the centre every day and placed in a storage area approved by the EHO.
- Garbage must be removed from the storage area every week and taken to the community dump.
- The EHO could ask the operator to remove garbage more often, and the operator would have to do so.
- Annual inspections by the Regional Early Childhood Officer and EHO will include checking procedures and facilities for removing garbage and refuse. See *What to do if an inspector requires improvements*, after Regulation 2(7).

How

- Place all garbage in sealed plastic bags, and put the bags in the storage area every day.
- Make sure that ravens, dogs and other scavengers cannot get into the storage area. Use a dumpster, plastic, wood or metal garbage box, or storage container with tight fitting lids.
- Make sure the centre is on the municipal garbage pick-up system.
- Ensure all staff are aware of daily and weekly garbage removal schedules.
- Clean and sanitize storage container weekly and whenever garbage has leaked.
- Participate in other community recycling programs as available.