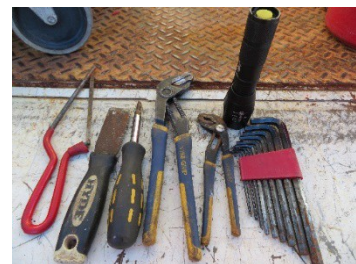


Plumbing tools disinfection and cleaning

Plumbing tools and personal protective equipment

Plumbing snakes, augers, equipment and personal protective equipment used to repair and maintain drains and sewers may become contaminated with harmful bacteria.

Examples of tools:



Always wear PPE such as nitrile gloves; thick drain cleaning gloves; safety glasses or face shields; and protective clothing to prevent the spread of harmful bacteria. Wearing PPE protects the plumber and prevents cross contamination to other individuals, surfaces or the environment.

Examples of PPE:



Cleaning and disinfecting after the job's done

Thoroughly wash your hands, wrists, arms or any part of the body which may have been exposed after cleaning your equipment. Also, decontaminate any reusable PPE and consider using disposable PPE where appropriate. Laundering in hot water is recommended for all washable clothing.

Another safety precaution is to thoroughly clean and disinfect all tools, equipment and reusable PPE after use. Cleaning, disinfecting and proper maintenance and storage may prolong the life of the tools and PPE.

How to clean and disinfect

To clean larger tools and equipment, use a spray disinfectant between regular cleanings.

1. Wear appropriate PPE and remove debris.
2. Spray the recommended disinfectant onto the surfaces of the cable and in the inside surfaces of the cable drum. A one-gallon garden sprayer may be the most effective delivery system for larger surfaces.
3. Wait for the recommended contact time.
4. Wipe off any excess disinfectant with a disposable towel or cloth to avoid drips. Discard the towel or cloth in the trash.
5. Follow up with regular cleaning and oiling as recommended by the manufacturer or shop maintenance schedule.

To clean hand tools and reusable PPE, use disinfectant wipes immediately after work in drains or sewers.

1. Wear appropriate PPE and remove debris.
2. Wipe all of the surfaces with the recommended disinfectant wipe. A second wipe may be used in cases where harmful microbes may be suspected.
3. Discard wipes in the trash.
4. Follow up with regular cleaning and oiling as recommended by the manufacturer or shop maintenance schedule.

What to use

Any disinfectant specific for bloodborne pathogens may be used. ASU uses CaviCide as a liquid disinfectant for sprayers or CaviWipes as a pre-moistened wipe. It is a convenient, ready-to-use, intermediate-level surface disinfectant that is effective against TB, HIV, HBV, HCV, viruses (hydrophilic and lipophilic), bacteria (including MRSA and VRE) and fungi. When used as directed, it will also effectively clean and decontaminate specialty tools and equipment.

Visit metrex.com/products/surface-disinfectants/cavicide for more information on CaviCide.



Please email EHS Biosafety and Biosecurity at Biosafety@asu.edu, or call 480-965-1823 for additional information.