

Healthcare Cleaning Requirements

Key considerations for cleaning medical, dental and allied health environments.

Why healthcare cleaning is different

Medical, dental and allied health sites carry infection-control obligations that go beyond standard commercial cleaning. This guide sets out the key considerations for building a compliant, defensible cleaning program for a healthcare site.

Who this applies to

These considerations apply across a range of healthcare and allied health settings, each with its own mix of clinical and non-clinical areas.

- Medical centres and GP clinics
- Dental practices and specialist dental suites
- Allied health and specialist consulting rooms (physiotherapy, psychology, radiology)
- Day procedure and treatment rooms
- Pathology and diagnostic collection centres

Key Considerations

01

Infection Control Standards

Cleaning protocols should align with recognised infection prevention guidance for the setting, covering standard and transmission-based precautions.

- Follow relevant infection control guidelines for the site type
- Use correct dilution rates and contact times for disinfectants
- Apply a consistent clean-to-dirty cleaning sequence within each room

02

High-Touch & High-Risk Zones

Clinical areas carry a higher risk of cross-contamination and need more frequent, more thorough attention than general office space.

- Treatment beds, chairs and adjustable surfaces cleaned between patients

- Door handles, light switches and shared equipment cleaned multiple times daily
- Reception counters and shared pens/devices treated as high-touch points

03

Chemical & Disinfectant Selection

Products need to be fit for a clinical setting — effective against the relevant pathogens without damaging sensitive equipment or surfaces.

- Use hospital-grade disinfectants where clinically indicated
- Match product selection to surface type and manufacturer guidance
- Maintain safety data sheets (SDS) on site for all products in use

04

Staff Training & PPE

Cleaning staff working in healthcare settings need training specific to the environment, not just general commercial cleaning induction.

- Site-specific induction covering infection control basics
- Correct PPE selection and use for the task and area
- Hand hygiene practices aligned with the site's clinical standards

05

Clinical Waste Segregation

Clinical and general waste streams must be kept separate and handled according to the relevant waste management requirements.

- Colour-coded bins and liners for clinical vs general waste
- Sharps containers checked, never overfilled, and replaced as required
- Waste handling procedures documented and staff trained accordingly

06

Documentation & Verification

Healthcare sites often require evidence that cleaning has occurred, not just that it has been scheduled.

- Cleaning logs completed and signed off per shift or per room
- Periodic audits or spot checks against the site's cleaning standard
- Records retained and accessible for accreditation or compliance review

Cleaning by Zone

Not every area of a healthcare site carries the same risk. Use this as a starting point for zoning your cleaning program, then adjust based on your site's own risk assessment.

Zone	Risk Level	Key Requirements
Waiting Room	Medium	Frequent high-touch cleaning of chairs, counters and shared reading material; daily floor and surface cleaning.
Reception	Medium	Regular disinfection of counters, EFTPOS terminals, pens and sign-in devices throughout the day.
Consult Room	High	Surface and equipment cleaning between patients; daily full clean including floors and high-touch points.
Treatment / Procedure Room	High	Cleaning and disinfection between every patient; hospital-grade disinfectant on all contact surfaces.
Staff Room / Kitchen	Low	Standard commercial kitchen hygiene; daily cleaning of benches, sink and appliance exteriors.
Washrooms	High	Multiple daily cleans; sanitisation of all fixtures, consumable restocking and floor disinfection.
Storage / Sterilisation Area	High	Restricted-access cleaning coordinated with clinical staff; strict clean-to-dirty workflow.

Building a compliant cleaning program

Not sure where to start?

Master Clean provides infection-control aware cleaning with documented procedures and site checklists for medical, dental and allied health environments across Melbourne and Victoria.

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