

Washing your hands

Wash your hands fully and often with soap and warm water and especially:

Before and after:

- preparing, serving or eating food
- dealing with sick people
- changing a nappy
- * treating a cut or a wound
- After:
- going or bringing someone to the toilet
- * blowing or scratching your nose, * being on the farm coughing or sneezing
- * handling rubbish or bins
- handling an animal or animal litter, droppings, toys & bowls
- using public transport
- you get home

- To wash hands properly:
 - Rub all parts of the hands and wrists with soap and water for at least 15 seconds (or as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday to you" song 2 times!)
 - \succ Don't miss out on washing your finger tips, between your fingers, the back of your hands and the bottom of your thumbs – the pictures here will help.

Getting ready to wash your hands:



- Remove your watch, rings and bracelets
- Wet hands fully under warm running water



 Put a squirt of liquid soap into your cupped hand

Washing your hands - take at least 15 seconds (sing the "Happy birthday to you" song 2 times!)



 Rub palm to palm 5 times to make suds



 Rub palm to palm with fingers interlaced

Rinsing and drying your hands:





 Rinse hands fully to make sure all the soap is gone

- Rub your right palm over the
- back of your left hand and up to your wrist 5 times
- Repeat on the other hand



 Wash both thumbs using twisting movement



- Dry hands fully using a clean hand towel or a fresh paper towel
- Bin the paper towel after use



PublicHealth.AreaB@hse.ie

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- With right hand over the back of left hand, rub fingers 5 times
- Repeat on the other hand



- Wash nail beds—rub the tips of your fingers against the opposite palm
 - Taps with an automatic turnoff, or which you can turn off using your elbow are ideal.
 - Where these are not available, use a paper towel or clean tissue to turn off the tap.
 - Dispose of the tissue or paper towel in a bin - a touch -free bin, or a pedal bin (foot operated) is best.

Adapted from Handwashing technique poster HSE Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistance in Ireland.

