

## How to?

### 7) Ensure correct use of protective clothing

#### Why is this important?

Every person working in a food-handling area must maintain a high level of personal cleanliness. He or she must wear suitable, clean clothing and, where necessary, protective clothing.

Protective clothing must be worn by all food handlers and fulfill the following :

- Clean and in good repair.
- Washable, lightweight and of light-colored material.
- Cover all outer clothing and the hair.

Team members who handle high-risk food must not travel to and from work wearing their protective clothing. This should be kept at work so that all clothes changing is done on site.

Plastic, disposable gloves are acceptable for certain high-risk food handling activities, but must not be regarded as a “second skin”. The following rules should be followed:

- Hands must be washed and dried before gloves are put on.
- Gloves must only be used for one particular task on completion of the task.
- The gloves should be discarded and the hands washed again.
- A maximum of one hours use before hands are washed/gloves are changed.
- Use should be limited to handling of high-risk foods such as cooked meats and sandwiches.

Strong, closed toe, “sensible” shoes with slip-resistant soles should be worn to protect against slipping, hot spillages, etc. Where required by the premises management, specialist safety or slip-resistant footwear must be provided and worn.

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### Check your understanding by:

What procedure should be taken when looking to use gloves in the kitchen?

How long should gloves be used for before being disposed of?

Describe the ideal shoes which should be worn in the kitchen?

Should team members travel to and from work in their protective clothing?

Describe the appropriate protective clothing?

### You can tell it's correct if:

Hand washing occurs prior to placing gloves on.

Team members get changed before commencing work; they do not arrive with their protective clothes on.

Strong, closed toe, "sensible" shoes with slip-resistant soles are worn by team members.

### Hints and tips:

Always change protective clothing when it gets excessively dirty.

Always use light coloured protective clothing as this will ensure that any dirt is visible and obvious.