

Safe Water Temperatures and Bathing

Purpose *To promote safety and reduce risk to clients while bathing/showering by having information on safe water temperatures, how to check for them, actions to take with unsafe temperatures and responding to potential burns from hot water.*

Policy Statement *Safe bathing procedures must be adhered to for clients that require assistance with bathing defined as:*

- a) Being dependent on support in all areas of bathing, and/or*
- b) Being dependent in all areas related to water usage, and/or*
- c) Not having the ability to recognize and/or regulate bath or shower water to safe temperatures*

These procedures include but may not be limited to:

- Plumbing modifications, where possible, to a client's place of residence that restricts the hot water temperature flowing from the hot water tank to a **maximum of 49°Celsius (120°Fahrenheit)**.*
- Water temperature checks from random faucets in the client's place of residence being completed at a minimum on a monthly basis, and necessary actions taken should hot water temperatures exceed a **maximum of 49°Celsius (120°Fahrenheit)**.*
- Completion of a manual and thermometer water test of bath water that indicates the bath water temperature is **no higher than 40°Celsius (104°Fahrenheit)**, prior to the client entering the tub or standing under a shower. This temperature may be reduced as per client bathing support plans where applicable.*
- Completion of a water temperature check prior to the first bath of the day in any therapeutic tub and required action taken if water temperatures vary from the pre-set temperature of the tub before proceeding with the bath.*

Binder(s):	Adult Services						Page:	1 of 2
Section(s):	Health & Safety	A	Mar 1/12	R/R	Mar 27/14	R/R	Mar 26/15	
Program Area(s):	Adult Disability	R	Oct 1/18					

- *Potential discontinuation of service in areas where water temperatures are exceeding 54°Celsius (129°Fahrenheit), and landlords/guardians are refusing to take required remedial actions.*

In addition, ASC strictly prohibits:

- *A client that is dependent in all aspects of bathing or showering, and/or in all areas related to water usage to be left unattended in a bath or shower at any time.*
- *Employees that have not successfully completed the Safe Water Temperature and Bathing training from being the primary person to complete the required temperature checks.*
- *Completion of a bath or shower using mechanical supports and/or specialized therapeutic tubs when only one staff is present in the home or when one to one support is not available.*
- *Employees with identified reduced sensitivity to heat or cold from being the primary person to conduct bath water temperature checks, and assist with bathing. They may only be present as the second staff assisting.*
- *Employees with identified reduced sensitivity to heat or cold from training others to Safe Water Temperatures and Bathing.*

All employees that assist clients with bathing will be trained to Safe Water Temperatures and Bathing, and where applicable specific bathing support plans. Where required, Proprietors will also receive training to specific areas of Safe Water Temperatures and Bathing. The training will be documented and retained on files. Once trained, employees and/or Proprietors are expected to follow the guidelines in their training and the applicable bathing support plans. Failure to do so by employees will be handled as per corrective actions and disciplinary procedures up to and including dismissal. Failure to do so by Proprietors may result in discontinuation of their contract.

Employees/Proprietors will be instructed to seek immediate medical attention (911) if they detect a potential hot water burn with a client.

Clients that do not meet the definition of requiring assistance with bathing will receive coaching and/or training on safety while bathing where required.

ASC will follow reporting requirements as outlined by applicable funders/authorities.

Binder(s):	Adult Services					Page:	2 of 2
Section(s):	Health & Safety	A	Mar 1/12	R/R	Mar 27/14	R/R	Mar 26/15
Program Area(s):	Adult Disability	R	Oct 1/18				

Safe Water Temperatures and Bathing

Client Specific Support Plans

In situations where clients have requirements for bathing that fall outside of the general guidelines, this will be written specific to the client and employees will be oriented to the specific guidelines.

Employee Training

Upon commencement of employment, and annually thereafter, employees will be trained to Safe Water Temperatures and Bathing. In areas where therapeutic tubs are in use, additional training to water temperature testing, safe use and maintenance of the tubs will occur.

All initial training and annual refresher training will be completed by a trained Team Manager. In addition to the above training requirements, any employee changing service areas will be re-trained to Safe Water Temperatures and Bathing, as well as oriented to any applicable individual bathing support plans.

Documentation of all training will be retained on employee files.

Team Manager Training

Upon commencement of their position, the area Coordinator will orient the Team Manager to the expectations regarding training of employees. Additionally they will be supported by another Team Manager who is experienced in the training materials. Documentation of the training will be retained on employee files.

In addition, prior to the annual refreshers, Team Managers will review the training materials with each other, and complete the required documentation indicating that they have refreshed their training. All documentation is retained on employee files.

Training Components

Training curriculum will consist of:

- Basic Guidelines
- General Assistance Guidelines
- Client Specific Bathing Support Plans
- Bath Water/Shower Temperature Check Procedure
- Safe Water Temperature Ranges

Binder(s):	Adult Services	Page:				1 of 2
Section(s):	Health & Safety	A	Mar 7/12	R/R	Mar 27/14	R Mar 3/15
Program Area(s):	Adult Disability	R/R	Oct 1/18			

- Safe Bathing Practices on Extended Outings/Vacations
- Response to a Hot Water Burn While Bathing
- Thermometer Use and Replacement
- Retention and Reporting Requirements
- Monthly Flowing Water Temperature Check Procedure
- Daily Therapeutic Tub Temperature Check
- Coaching/Training/Information for Clients that bathe/shower unassisted

Training will involve observation of required techniques for manual and thermometer temperature testing and demonstration of same.

Annual refresher training will consist of a review of the training curriculum with demonstration of the correct procedures for the manual and thermometer tests.

Proprietor Training

Upon commencement of a Proprietorship, if the client meets the definition of requiring assistance with bathing/showering, the proprietor will be trained, and annually refreshed in:

- Basic and General Guidelines
- Bath/Shower Water Temperature Check Procedures
- Applicable Individual Bathing Support Plans
- Response to Burns
- Thermometer Usage and Replacement

Documentation of training will be maintained on Proprietor files.

Competency Testing

In addition to training, random competency based checks may occur. These may be in the form of quizzes, or required demonstration for components of the training. Information gathered from the competency testing may be used:

- In conjunction with review of policy/procedure
- For potential improvements/changes to training curriculum or methods
- Performance improvement

Filing and Retention of Temperature Charts

The Monthly Flowing Water, Bath/Shower and Therapeutic Tub Temperature Charts will be retained on site for one year. After one year, they will be forwarded to Administration for filing. The most current three years will be retained on each homes' operation file, with the previous seven years retained in archives.

Binder(s):	Adult Services	Page:				2 of 2	
Section(s):	Health & Safety	A	Mar 7/12	R/R	Mar 27/14	R	Mar 3/15
Program Area(s):	Adult Disability	R/R	Oct 1/18				