

Diaper Changing Procedure for the Environment Rating Scales

To minimize contamination outside the diaper changing area:

- One diaper-changing area should be selected and used consistently.
- The diaper changing area should be physically separated from the food preparation and serving area, including separate sinks.
- The diapering surface must be non-porous so it can be disinfected after each diaper change with a bleach/water solution or other approved disinfectant (e.g. no cloth quilted pads or fabric safety straps, no containers stored on the diapering surface, etc.)
- If paper is used to cover the changing surface (optional), it should be long enough to cover from the child's shoulders to heels (in case it becomes soiled and must be folded over to give a clean surface during the change).

The procedure for changing a diaper is as follows:

Staff must have clean/sanitized hands when beginning the diapering procedure.

1. Prepare for diapering by getting out all supplies that will be needed ahead of time, including:
 - Wipes (removed from their container), enough to clean the child and to clean the adult's and the child's hands
 - New diaper
 - Plastic bag for dirty clothes and change of clothes, if needed
 - Disposable gloves, if used (gloves are not required)
 - A dab of diaper cream on a paper towel, if needed (with an extra glove or tissue to apply cream)
2. Bring the child to the diapering table and remove clothing as needed to access the diaper. If clothes are dirty, place in the plastic bag and tie up to be sent home.
3. Open the child's diaper but leave the diaper under the child's bottom while cleaning.
4. Clean child's bottom, wiping front to back, using the soiled side of the wipe only once. Throw away the diaper and wipes in a hands-free lined and covered trash container.
5. If wearing gloves, remove and throw away. Wipe your hands with a clean wipe, followed by wiping the child's hands with a second clean wipe. Throw wipes away.
6. Place the clean diaper under the child and use clean gloves or tissue to apply diaper cream if needed and throw away.
7. Redress the child.
8. Wash the child's hands following the proper handwashing procedure and return the child to the play area without touching any other surfaces.
9. Throw away the paper liner (if used). Remove any visible soil from the changing surface with a soapy water solution, a wet soapy paper towel, or a cleaning wipe.
10. Spray the diapering surface with a bleach/water solution, air dry, rinse with clean water, air dry **OR** disinfect with an equivalent solution, following manufacture instructions for use.
11. Wash your hands with soap and water following the "Handwashing Procedure."

Additional Precautions:

- Toilets must be flushed after each use.
- Floors/other surfaces that become contaminated must be disinfected.
- Toys that are played with or objects that are touched during diapering/toileting must be put aside to be sanitized.
- Other surfaces should not be contaminated during changing or toileting unless properly disinfected. E.g., if child is changed on a pad on the floor, soiled diaper should not be placed on floor unless floor is disinfected afterwards.

*Note: Provider's hands must be washed after the changing procedure is completed, after diaper checks, and after helping children with toileting. Children's hands must be washed after diapering and toileting.