

Hand-washing

Wisconsin Food Code Fact Sheet #1

Handwashing is the single most effective means of preventing the spread of bacteria and viruses, that can cause infections and food borne illness.

Employees can be a significant source of harmful microorganisms. Proper handwashing can be the most effective action workers can take to control direct and indirect contamination of food, utensils, and equipment.

When To Wash Hands

- Before starting to work with food, utensils or equipment.
- Before putting on gloves.
- During food preparation, as needed.
- When switching between raw foods and ready-to-eat foods.
- After handling soiled utensils and equipment.
- After coughing, sneezing, using a tissue, or using tobacco products.
- After eating and drinking.
- After touching your skin.
- After handling animals.



- After using the toilet, wash hands at a hand-wash sink in the restroom and again when returning to work.

Always Follow These Six Steps When You Wash Your Hands

Before washing your hands, remove any jewelry and only wash your hands in sinks designated for hand-washing. Do not wash your hands in utensil, food preparation, or service sinks.

1. Roll up sleeves and wet hands with warm water.
2. Using soap, not a hand sanitizer solution, work up a soapy lather that covers hands and forearms.
3. Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds: make sure to wash palms, back of hands, between fingers, and forearms.
4. Use a fingernail brush to clean under fingernails and between fingers.
5. Rinse hands and forearms in warm water.
6. Dry hands with single-use paper towels or cloth roller towel. Turn off the faucet with paper towels to prevent re-contamination of hands.