

Cleaning for our healthcare partners

At Vanguard, we pride ourselves on our attention to detail



If you run a healthcare practice or primary care centre and are unhappy with your present cleaning service, we think we might be able to help....read on.



What would you expect from Vanguard?

Here at Vanguard we are working hard to reduce avoidable infections and to provide a clean and safe environment



Vanguard Cleaning – the Healthcare professionals choice

Since we started, nearly ten years ago, one of the things we are most proud of is the number of customers from the Healthcare sector who have chosen us as their cleaning services provider. Healthcare partners are now established as central to our business and the reason we're proud of this fact is because of the standards they demand, and the confidence they have in us to meet them. Healthcare environments, whether they are small doctors' surgeries or larger hospitals, not only have to be clean – that much is obvious – they have to be safe too. All of us are aware of the potential for infection within our healthcare environments and the catastrophic and potentially fatal consequences when these infections occur – be they MRSA or Clostridium (C.) difficile. To deliver a cleaning service to the consistently exacting standards required to suppress these deadly bacteria requires conscientiousness, expertise, experience, professionalism and attention to detail – the very things, in fact, our Healthcare partners recognise us as exercising in the service we provide for them.

Don't forget the small print

Not only do we provide our customers with a cleaning service to the high standard they demand, we support the service with the preparatory and monitoring documentation that is now required to fully satisfy Health and Safety audit requirements. We understand the importance of providing our customers with the documentation they need to enable them to report back to their funding bodies as and when required to do so. That is why we prepare and submit an 18-point Method Statement and Risk Assessment as part of any proposal we make. This document is completely comprehensive and covers all relevant areas – from Scope of Work and Hazards to Environmental and Waste Disposal Procedures and Emergency and First Aid arrangements. The Method Statement complements the Risk Assessment, and defines the schedule and working practices we will be adhering to. It covers everything from identifying colour coded mops and buckets to avoiding cross-contamination, to giving detailed information on the chemicals we use, in accordance with COSHH (Control of Substances Harmful to Health) legislation. It means our customers can concentrate on their work without having to worry about the way we do ours. Even more important

than preparing our Risk Assessment documentation before we actually take on the job, is ensuring that it is monitored and amended in response to our experience of actually doing the work. It's not just written and forgotten about, it's a living document that we actively review and look to improve upon wherever we can. It is sometimes impossible to foresee everything before we arrive on the site we're working on; something may only become apparent when we start a job. So, whilst we don't claim to be infallible, we very quickly realise when something needs to be rectified, and we act immediately.

It's a bad workman...

who blames his tools, as the saying goes. But there's also an expression about using a sledgehammer to crack a nut too. At Vanguard the reason we put so much time and effort into finding the right tools and equipment is not because we make more money by getting the job done quicker (we don't; in actual fact we save you money by getting the job done quicker), it's because, quite simply, it enables us to provide a better service for our customers. It's that simple. And whilst we still think there's a place for the good old mop and bucket (we use them all the time – and ours are all colour coded too!) there's lots of tasks that are better mechanised – especially those that involve floor finishing and preparing. The results are more consistent and more thorough. And, in healthcare, it's these results that create a cleaner and safer workplace and treatment environment.

Our determination to use the most appropriate tools for the job doesn't just extend to the cleaning equipment we source and provide, it applies to the chemicals we use too. After all, the most efficient equipment will only ever be as good as the chemicals that are being applied. It's essential that we use chemicals that can be relied upon to tackle the kind of bacteria, spores, fungi and viruses that are becoming more prevalent. That's why, at Vanguard Cleaning, we put as much effort into researching and trialling the chemicals we use as into the equipment we use to apply them. If we didn't have confidence in the chemicals we use we couldn't expect our customers to have confidence in us.

The facts about our medical cleaning

You can expect your environment to be kept clean and tidy with our efficient trained staff



Keeping our healthcare centres clean

- We manage infection, prevention and control
- We insist on hand cleansing at every opportunity
- Deep cleaning is our business
- We employ staff trained specifically for medical environments
- Aprons and gloves are worn at all times
- We offer additional deep cleaning of treatment areas
- Our services comply with National Guidelines



photograph courtesy of Tarporley Hospital



The use of Steri-7

A new generation of cleaner



Steri-7

Fortunately, in the Steri-7 range of products, we're using chemicals that have been rigorously tested and independently proven to provide double protection against contamination. Not only will Steri-7 kill the germs that are present when it is applied, it also creates a barrier that ensures any germs that are subsequently introduced will also be killed, just as effectively, for up to 7 days afterwards. Because Steri-7 keeps working when dry it can cut cleaning time by up to 33%. Areas that might normally need to be cleaned fully several times over the course of the week will remain sterile with significantly fewer, or quicker, cleans. This has the added benefit of safeguarding against human error – although we'd like to think that it never happens, an area will stay sterile if it is missed, until it is cleaned a day or two later.

At Vanguard we like to offer our customers a service that both meets their expectations, and exceeds them. The Steri-7 range of chemicals has proven so effective in helping us meet the targets we set ourselves for customer satisfaction that we recently agreed to distribute the full range of products. We are confident that we are now using the most effective and efficient range of cleaning chemicals that are currently available – we know you can be too



Steri-7™ uses a breakthrough called RBT (Residual Barrier Technology) to provide 7-day protection against bacterial and viral contamination. When applied to a surface, floor, wall or even a fabric, the biocide in Steri-7™ kills the micro-organisms present in seconds. At the same time, a barrier is created that allows the biocide to go on working even when dry.

