**Sluice Room Checklist**

If you are planning or redesigning your sluice/pan/dirty utility room for a new or refurbished care home, hospital or other care facility, you will need to carefully consider all factors relating to infection control, access, flow of work and layout.

Not only will an optimised layout make life much easier for your staff, it will also greatly reduce the risk of spreading infections resulting from cross contamination from bodily fluids and human waste.

To achieve optimum infection control in your dirty utility room, there are a number of essential fixtures and fittings you should include:

1. **Disposal/Slop Hopper** – a temporary collection point for soiled/hazardous items, a back-up disposal method in the event of power or mechanical failure, and a facility for filling and emptying cleaners’ buckets.

2. **Washer disinfector** – to thoroughly disinfect reusable utensils such as bedpans, commode pots, urine bottles, etc.

3. **Pulp macerator** – to macerate and dispose of medical pulp containers and their contents.

4. **Foot-operated clinical waste bin** – to dispose of items such as gloves and aprons, without the need to touch a handle or the lid.

5. **Deep stainless steel sink** – for general washing and rinsing purposes.

6. **Storage cupboards** – for storing items such as single use disposable bedpans and replacement chemical bottles.

7. **Work surface** – temporary storage area for clean and disinfected items.

8. **Wall-mounted rack** – for temporary storage and drying of reusable utensils before returning them to rooms.

9. **Shelving** – for general storage. i.e. medical pulp utensils.

10. **Liquid soap dispenser** – with antibacterial soap to reduce the spread of infection.

11. **Stainless steel handwash basin** – located near the door to ensure hands are readily washed before disinfected items are touched and before exiting the room, with lever or sensor operated taps to prevent the spread of infection.

12. **Paper towel dispenser** – to dry hands after washing.

13. **Pedal bin** – for disposal of paper towels.

14. **Fire door (depending on local regulations)** – with stainless steel coatings for ease of cleaning.

15. **Sealed floor covering (vinyl or similar)** – suitable for washing in the event of spillage from utensils.

16. **Tiled or aseptic laminate walls** – to make the sluice room easier to clean.

17. **Extractor fan** – to eliminate unpleasant odours and encourage laminar flow.

18. **Lighting** – energy efficient, sensor operated lighting system to reduce the spread of infection.

DDC Dolphin is dedicated to excellence and innovation in sluice room design, equipment manufacture, installation, testing and servicing. We can support you in the planning, design and specification of new or existing facilities, enabling you to meet the highest infection control standards.

Contact our experts today to discuss your requirements.

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