

RISK ASSESSMENT – UNBLOCKING DRAINS AND PIPES

ACTIVITY	PERSON AT RISK	SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS	RISK CONTROL MEASURES
Use of drain cleaning fluids etc.	Staff	Skin contact with chemical cleaners may lead to burns, skin irritation etc. Fumes from some chemicals may lead to respiratory problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical cleaners to only be used as a last resort when other unblocking methods have failed. • COSHH assessments to be carried out prior to use. • Areas to be kept well ventilated. • Staff to follow the manufacturers' instructions at all times for use, storage and disposal. • Staff to wear the appropriate PPE.
Cleaning blocked drains and pipes (general)	As above	Working in the presence of water etc. may lead to slips, trips and falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to ensure that floor surface areas are kept clean and free from slipping and tripping hazards. • Staff to wear suitable footwear.
As above	As above	Regular contact with foul water may lead to Weil's disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff to receive training regarding Weil's disease. • All staff to ensure that cuts and grazes are immediately cleaned and the wound covered up using a waterproof plaster.

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