

## FACTSHEET 6: How to clean and disinfect a commode

Careful cleaning and disinfection of commodes with suitable wipes is essential to avoid or reduce cross-infection. Inadequate cleaning of commodes and bedpans has been

indicated in the cross infection of organisms such as norovirus and Clostridium difficile. Commodes should be cleaned after each use, following local policy guidelines.

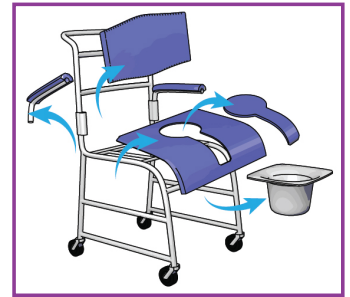
### Remember

- Always clean from the cleanest to the dirtiest part of the commode.
- Use a fresh wipe if your wipe becomes soiled or dry.

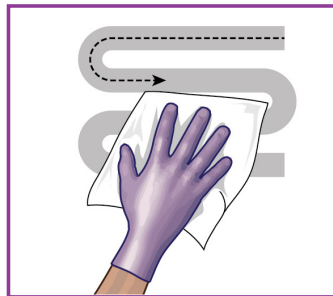
**1. Wear single-use disposable gloves and plastic aprons. Standard Infection Prevention Precautions must be followed at all times as described in your local policy guidelines**



**2. Take out the pot cover, or seat cover and disassemble the commode where possible**

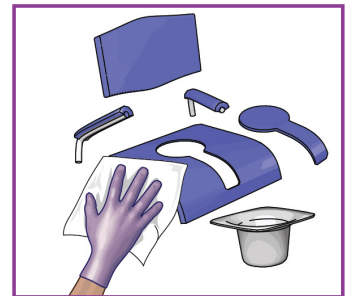


**3. Starting from the top clean in an S-shape motion the front surface of the backrest from clean to dirty. Do not go over the same surface twice with the same wipe**

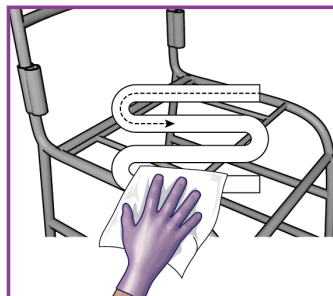


**4. Clean front and back of each detachable part of the commode:**

- Back rest
- Armrest
- Seat
- Seat cover, etc



**5. Clean the top of the seating area in an S-Shape motion moving from clean to dirty**



**6. Turn the commode upside down, clean underneath the seat ensuring all surfaces are cleaned**



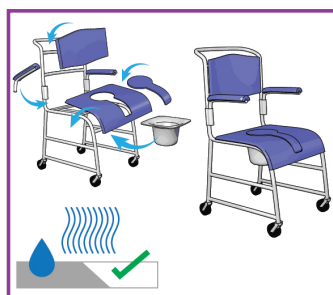
**7. Dispose of wipe**



**8. Remove gloves and aprons. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water in accordance with local policy guidelines on hand hygiene**



**9. Carefully re-assemble the commode. Allow the surfaces to dry before use**



**10. Once cleaned, place the 'I am clean' indicator tape across the arms or seat. Tick the 'I am clean' box on the tape, fill in the date and time, and print your name. This will inform others that the commode is cleaned and ready for use**

