

# Gravesham Borough Council

## Risk Assessment Form

<b>Group/Unit:</b>	DSO Building Management		
<b>Address/Location:</b>	Housing Services		
<b>Assessor:</b>	Jeff Roberts	<b>Position:</b>	Corporate Health and Safety Advisor
<b>Date:</b>	Reviewed 31.03.2021 Nicole Arthur Service Delivery Manager (Housing Repairs)		
<b>Work Activity/Task:</b> Clearing blocked sinks and basins.			
<b>Assessment reference number :</b>	<b>Comments :</b> Additional COSHH assessment has been produced for hazardous substances used.		
O/S 182			
<b>Risk Calculation:</b> V L = Very low                      L = Low                      M = Medium                      H = High			
<b><u>Risk Rating</u></b>	<b><u>Classification</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Priority Code</u></b>
VL	Very Low	None	Highly unlikely to happen
L	Low	Not Urgent	Unlikely to happen
M	Medium	When possible	Could happen
H	High	Stop	Will happen.
<b>Hazards:</b>	<b>Risks:</b>	<b>Risk Rating:</b>	
1. Disconnecting / re-connecting pipe work.	Personal physical injury. Manual handling injury through poor posture.	M	
2. Working in occupied premises.	Injury to occupants of premises. Customer complaints. Damage to existing health conditions.	M	
3. Failure to use correct personal protective equipment.	Cuts and abrasions to hands. Acid burns and blisters to exposed skin. Exposure to blood borne viruses. Inhalation of harmful gases. Impact injury to feet. Eye damage from contact with chemicals.	H	
4. Using hazardous substance.	Acid burns and blisters. Possible asphyxia from inhalation. Severe eye damage. Harmful if ingested.	M	

**Persons at Risk:** DSO Building Management staff.

**Control Measures:**

Existing:

1. Only trained and experienced staff are permitted to undertake these tasks.  
Some staff have received manual handling training.
2. Staff are encouraged to assess the affect their activities will have to the safety and health of the occupants of the premises.
3. Operatives are issued with appropriate personal protective equipment to undertake this task.  
This includes overalls, safety footwear, gloves (gauntlets), face mask and goggles.
4. Where necessary a drain cleaning substance will be introduced.  
All substances are stored within the depot and only released on request.  
All substances issued are logged in the operations office.  
Only trained, experienced staff are permitted to use hazardous substances.  
A safe system of work is in place for the use of chemical sink and basin clearance.

Proposed:

Refresher training manual handling awareness.

Issue safe system of work to all relevant staff.

Maintain a product data file that can be accessed by all operatives.

Develop and deliver training programme for the safe use of chemicals.

**Signed:**

**Date:** 31.03.21

**Review Date:** 31.03.22

**Action Plan:** No

## Safe System of Work

**Group/Unit:** DSO Building Management

**Work Activity/Task:** Unblocking sinks and basins using chemicals.

**Persons at Risk:** DSO Building Management staff and occupants.

**Chemicals should only be used for unblocking sinks and basins when all other methods have not been successful.**

- Check manufacturer's instructions (COSHH) clearly before using chemicals.
- Advise any occupants of the potential dangers of the chemicals, consider any complication to existing medical conditions.
- Ensure occupants are happy for you to continue process.
- Restrict access to the area, clearly stating intended duration of process.
- Select the appropriate personal protective equipment for the task:
  - a. Protective Clothing
  - b. Gloves (gauntlets)
  - c. Safety footwear
  - d. Goggles
- Apply chemicals to the blocked sink or basin.
- Allow sufficient / recommended time for chemicals to activate.
- Stay away from the immediate area during this time.
- Never leave the treated area unattended.
- When process is complete flush away and test outlet.
- If successful, thoroughly clean equipment and surrounding area before leaving.
- Return all unused chemicals to secure storage point.
- Carefully and safely dispose of empty container.