Activity 3: The importance of regular cleaning, preparation and maintenance of equipment

Regular, effective cleaning and preparation of work areas and equipment, and the maintenance of equipment, is important in all workplaces. But it is of particular importance in areas where the risk of contamination is high and/or accurate practical results are required.

Your task in your group is to research one workplace (some ideas are suggested below) and present your findings as a written report for the management of the workplace, which can be used as a resource to illustrate the importance of cleaning, preparation of work areas and maintenance of equipment. You may also wish to choose a specific piece of machinery/equipment, and research how it is maintained to use as an example in your report.

* What are the health and safety risks to workers? (For example, contamination, spread of infection, production of toxic/dangerous by-products.)
* How could invalid results be produced? (For example, contamination/cross-contamination of environmental samples or reagents.)
* Are working practices inefficient? (For example, preventing down time, being ready for an emergency.)
* Is there any specific equipment which is likely to be damaged? (For example, tubes could become blocked/measurements may not read accurately.)

## Useful websites:

* Food manufacture: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5aec31ea40f0b631578af25e/HS_10.2_Food_Safety_and_Kitchen_Hygiene.pdf>
* Drug preparation (hospital pharmacy): <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/understanding-contamination-control-in-pharmacy-aseptic-services/>
* Science laboratory: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/cleaning/topics/coshh.htm>
* Maintenance of equipment: [www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/maintenance.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/maintenance.htm)

The template on the next sheet is a suggestion of one way you can present your findings.

Workplace: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Health and safety risks |
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| Invalid results |
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| Inefficient working practices |
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| Damage to equipment |
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| Other factors |
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