Splash Zones

A splash zone is the area within 3 feet of the sink. In this zone, splashes from the sink or drain can spread water droplets that may contain microorganisms onto nearby surfaces.

Why is it important?

Splashing water can spread germs from sinks or drains onto patient care items, supplies, equipment, and even the hands of healthcare providers. This can result in the transmission of infections, including those caused by multi-drug-resistant organisms (MDROs). This issue remains a key focus for The Joint Commission.



Reduce the Risk

- Clean and disinfect the sink following the facility's protocols.
- Use splash guards to establish a physical barrier between the sink and the countertop to reduce splashing.
- Do not place items in the splash zone, including patient care items, personal belongings, or food and drinks.
- It is essential to avoid medication preparation in the splash zone to prevent contamination.
- Do not dispose of patient waste in sinks, and limit throwing beverages down sinks or toilets.
- Always practice proper hand hygiene after touching surfaces in the splash zone.
- Ballad Health has a Water Management Plan to reduce the risk of waterborne pathogens.

For questions, contact your local Infection Preventionist.