Working with Electricity (Cleaning & Soft FM)

SAFE OVER SUMMER

Cleaning teams use powered vacuums, polishers and scrubbers near damp floors and public spaces. Taping a cord or bypassing a tripping RCD can lead to serious shock.

Electricity and water don’t mix. Never bypass or tape a tripping RCD.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Damaged or frayed power cords on equipment**
- **Improper storage causing crushed cables**



- **Wet areas increasing shock potential**
- **Missing or faulty RCD protection**



- **Cords across walkways creating trip hazards**

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Where might this happen in our work environment?

SAFE OVER SUMMER



Damp floors: using powered scrubbers near wet floors can expose cleaning teams to electrical hazards.



Shared spaces: handling vacuums or polishers near people can leave cords across walkways.



Equipment storage: crushed cables or tightly wound cords can damage cleaning equipment leads.

Where else?

Where have you seen electrical hazards in your work area?

What can we check to protect?

1. **Is the equipment safe to use?**
   Inspect plug, cord and tag before every use. Stop immediately and tag-out defective equipment. Report damaged sockets or outlets to maintenance.
2. **Is RCD protection in place?**
   Always plug into an RCD. Never bypass or tape a tripping device. Treat all cables as live.
3. **Are cords stored and used safely?**
   Keep cords off wet floors and away from traffic. Store cords loosely to prevent internal wire damage.

What will you do if cleaning equipment trips the RCD twice in one shift?

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Your safety comes first

The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

Ask for support when:

You’re unsure

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

Something happens

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

You need support

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

Do you know who is your HSW Business Partner?

Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.