

Colour Coding

Cleaning equipment - The cleaning equipment that is regularly used should be fit for purpose, easy-to-use and well-maintained. It is imperative that each health care provider regularly reviews its cleaning equipment to ensure that it is fit for purpose and, importantly, can demonstrate that it has clear infection control benefits.

This appendix sets out suggested colour coding systems for cleaning materials. Providers should consider ensuring its equipment conforms to these. The poster can be downloaded at www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/cleaningspecificationsprimarycare.

National colour coding scheme

For cleaning materials and equipment in primary care medical and dental premises

All practices are recommended to adopt the colour code below for cleaning materials. All cleaning items, for example, cloths (re-usable and disposable), mops, buckets, aprons and gloves, should be colour coded.

Red Sanitary areas including sinks in sanitary areas	Blue General areas, e.g. waiting rooms and consulting rooms (including sinks in general areas)
Green Kitchens	Yellow Treatment and minor operation rooms