

Portable Sinks in Child Care

Child care employees and children must follow the handwashing procedures as detailed in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). Current child care rules require handwashing sinks to be a permanent fixture with running water. As part of the Responsible RestartOhio plan, OAC is being amended to allow the use of portable sinks in order to meet handwashing requirements. OAC does not regulate the style of sink that may be used. Included below are examples of portable sinks. Hand sanitizer can be used in place of handwashing unless hands are visibly soiled.

Portable sinks

- ✓ Increase accessibility to a handwashing sink.
- ✓ Can be used in individual classrooms, and indoor/outdoor spaces. This is especially helpful if a divider has been added to a classroom that removes access to the handwashing sink built into that space. This allows for a handwashing sink to be added to one side of that divided child care space where the sink is no longer accessible.
- ✓ Can be used in a common area while allowing children to remain in their assigned group (i.e., large motor room).
- ✓ Are not prohibited by the Ohio Building Code.

Safety measures

- ✓ OAC does not regulate current water temperature for portable sinks.
- ✓ Safety precautions do recommend water temperature remain at 110 degrees or less.
- ✓ Portable sinks are for handwashing only and cannot be used for food or bottle preparation.
- ✓ Water used to wash hands should be disposed of in a sanitary manner.
- ✓ Sinks should not be self-constructed or homemade.

Handwashing Requirements

Child Care Staff	Children
Upon arrival for the day, after breaks, when entering a classroom	Upon arrival for the day
Prior to departure	Prior to departure
After toileting or assisting a child with toileting, after each diaper/pull-up change	After toileting/diaper change
After contact with bodily fluids or cleaning up spills or objects contaminated with bodily fluids	After contact with bodily fluids
After returning inside after outdoor play	After returning inside after outdoor play
After handling pets, pet cages or other pet objects that have come in contact with the pet	After handling pets, pet cages or other pet objects that have come in contact with the pet before moving on to another activity
Before eating, serving or preparing food or bottles or feeding a child	Before eating or assisting with food preparation
When visibly soiled (must use soap and water)	When visibly soiled (must use soap and water)
Before and after completing a medical procedure or administering medication	After water activities
After cleaning or sanitizing or using any chemical products	

Examples of Portable Sinks

