

Splash Zone

What is a Splash Zone?

A splash zone is an area around a sink or other drain in which contamination could occur. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) uses **3 feet** to define the splash zone.

Measures to Reduce the Risk of Contamination due to Splashing

- Clean and disinfect surfaces near the drain, including the sink basin, faucet, faucet handles, and surrounding countertop at least daily
- Create a physical separation between the sink and counter to reduce any contamination from splashing water. When space is limited, a splash guard can be mounted beside the sink
- Avoid preparing medications within 3 feet of a sink
- Avoid storing supplies within 3 feet of splashing water
- Avoid placement of patient/resident care items or personal items on counters next to sinks
- Do not discard patient/resident waste down sinks
- Minimize discarding liquid nutritional supplements or other beverages down sinks or toilets



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