Leptospirosis and site hygiene

About 5 minutes · Read it out, then ask the questions at the end.

> **Why it matters.** Leptospirosis, also called Weil's disease, is caught from water or soil contaminated by rat urine. It can start like flu and become very serious. Good hygiene and welfare stop it spreading.

The hazards

- Contact with water, mud or soil where rats live
- Cuts and grazes letting infection in
- Eating or smoking with dirty hands
- Poor welfare facilities

Stay safe

- Cover cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters before work
- Wear gloves when handling anything that may be contaminated
- Wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking
- Use the welfare facilities, and report it if they aren't clean or working
- Keep food and rubbish in closed containers so rats aren't attracted
- Report signs of rats
- If you get flu-like symptoms after working near water or rats, tell your doctor about your work

Ask the team

1. Where on this site could you come into contact with rat urine?
2. What are the early signs of leptospirosis?
3. Where can you wash your hands on site?

The law and guidance

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (biological agents). Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, Schedule 2 (welfare).

General guidance to help you give a toolbox talk. It doesn't replace your site's risk assessments, method statements, permits or training. Check it against your own site rules before you give it.

Free toolbox talk from EW Group, 110V site temps specialists. www.ewgroup.co.uk · Bristol 0117 982 0005 · London 020 7476 0001

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Leptospirosis and site hygiene

Site: Date:

Given by: Company:

By signing, I confirm I attended this toolbox talk and understood it.

Name (print)	Company	Signature	Time

Keep this record with your site's training and briefing records.