



SERVICES

Workplace Cleanliness Inspection

The potential for infection transmission following a pandemic, such as SARS or COVID-19 presents significant health and safety risks for organisations.

As Governments start to relax social distancing rules around the country and we see a gradual reopening of schools, workplaces and public spaces the importance of health and safety shifts towards workplaces and organisations to ensure they have a safe environment for their staff, volunteers, students and visitors. Undertaking testing to assess workplace cleanliness levels can help by identifying the presence of viruses and other contaminants, and reduce the risk associated with contamination and interaction.

A workplace cleanliness inspection by a qualified Occupational Hygienist is a practical, cost-effective and efficient way of checking the cleanliness of your workplace prior to workers re-entering previous closed or restricted access sites. For organisations that are providing an essential service and must remain open, this inspection will ensure that workplace cleaning and workers' hygiene practices are adequate and effective.

What a workplace cleanliness inspection involves

- ◆ Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) Surface Testing to detect the presence of organic cellular material on objects and surfaces.
- ◆ Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) testing to assess the presence of air pollutants and organic chemicals.
- ◆ On-site analysis of results using a dedicated App
- ◆ Provision of an inspection report, including recommendations for any deeper cleaning that may be required



Key Benefits

- ✓ Assists your organisation meet WHS Obligations relating to cleaning and hygiene practices, ultimately ensuring a safe working environment for employees, volunteers, clients and visitors.
- ✓ Protects and supports employees' physical and mental wellbeing as they return to the workplace and normal operating processes and rhythms.
- ✓ Helps verify that existing cleaning and hygiene practices are effective
- ✓ Creates a safer workplace by helping reduce the risk of people in the workplace being exposed to harmful pollutants and contaminants

An inspection in action

- ◆ Brown Nurses is a Catholic Social Services provider that operates essential in home nursing care and support services in Inner Sydney.
- ◆ Deemed as an essential service, Brown Nurses have continued to provide care to clients during the COVID-19 pandemic, with staff visiting clients in the community on a daily basis using pool cars.
- ◆ The organisation had identified the risk of potential contaminants being brought back into the working environment and vehicles on staff shoes, clothes, bags or hands. It was important for them to undertake a Workplace Cleanliness inspection to help understand if their current cleaning program was adequately addressing the increased risk exposures.
- ◆ The inspection focussed on areas in the workplace which were at higher risk of the presence of pollutants or contaminants, including pool vehicles, and shared / communal areas in the office where staff congregate.
- ◆ The results of the inspection provided Brown Nurses with peace of mind that their routine cleaning program was appropriate but also helped identify focus areas where a deeper or more frequent clean may be needed.

“The inspection was very useful in terms of identifying “hotspots”. In our case, these proved to be sites in daily use that could be easily overlooked, e.g. the power button on the microwave in our staff lunch room.”

- Wendy Peddell RN, Director of Services

What is ATP?

All organic matter (living or once-living) contains Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP), an organic compound providing energy for living cells. Respiratory droplets from sneezing or coughing contains different human organic material (e.g. epithelial cells, cells of the immune system, bacteria, fungi and viruses) including ATP.

How ATP Surface Testing and Indoor Air Quality Testing helps to create a safer workplace

Assessing a sites cleanliness level reduces the risk associated with viruses and other contaminants. In determining cleanliness, Air quality and Surface Testing can be used to indicate the presence of air pollutants and organic cellular material (ATP) on objects and surfaces.

Workplaces that have temporarily shut down or closed can experience a build-up of pollutants due to dormant air ventilation and extraction systems during periods of shut down. Exposure to these pollutants can have serious health impacts on workers with respiratory conditions.

If you would like further information about Workplace cleanliness inspections, please contact the Risksupport team at:

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