

### PHYSICAL PLANNING

#### General

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- 880 .1.00 The nature and type of surfaces and finishes used in Health Care buildings are integral to the overall management of infection control risks.

This is covered in more detail in Part C of these Guidelines. Some basic issues are discussed below.

#### Floors

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- 880 .2.00 Floor coverings must be easy to clean and resistant to disinfection procedures. This applies to all items in patient care environments.

- 880 .3.00 Treatment Areas should not be carpeted.

In both Patient and Treatment Areas, the flooring should be easily cleaned and in good repair.

- 880 .4.00 Floors in areas used for food preparation or food assembly shall be water resistant and greaseproof to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Floor surfaces, including joints in tiles in such areas, shall be resistant to food acids (epoxy grout). In all areas subject to frequent wet cleaning methods, floor materials shall not be physically affected by germicidal cleaning solutions.

#### Skirtings

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- 880 .5.00 Wall bases in Kitchens, Operating and Birthing Rooms, Clean and Dirty Utility Rooms, CSSU areas and other areas subject to frequent wet cleaning methods shall be made integral with the floor, tightly sealed against the wall, and constructed without voids.

#### Walls

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- 880 .6.00 Other than special treatments included as feature face work in public or staff relaxation areas, wall finishes shall be scrubbable, and in the immediate vicinity of plumbing fixtures, shall be smooth and water-resistant.

#### Ceilings

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- 880 .7.00 All exposed ceilings and ceiling structures in areas occupied by patients or staff, and in food preparation or food storage areas, shall be finished so as to be readily cleanable with equipment routinely used in daily housekeeping activities.

- 880 .8.00 In food preparation and other areas where dust fallout would present a potential problem, there shall be a finished ceiling that covers all conduits, piping, duct work and open construction systems.

- 880 .9.00 Ceilings in Operating and Delivery Rooms, Isolation Rooms, Nurseries, and Sterile Processing Rooms shall be monolithic from wall to wall without fissures, open joints, or crevices that may retain or permit passage of dirt particles. Light fittings shall also be recessed, flush fitting and sealed to prevent dust ingress.

- 880 .10.00 Acoustic and/or lay-in ceilings shall not be used where particulate matter may interfere with hygienic environmental control.

#### Gaps

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- 880 .11.00 A gap is defined as a space where two materials do not meet leaving a space or opening that can harbour dust, microorganisms, moulds or vermin.

- 880 .12.00 In construction of Health Care Facilities, gaps between surfaces are not permitted, and must be properly sealed. In particular gaps in the following area are not allowed.
- + Between skirting and floor;
  - + Between utility benches and walls;
  - + Between cupboards and floor or wall;
  - + Between fixtures attached to floors and walls.
- 880 .13.00 Floor and wall construction, finishes and trims in dietary, food preparation areas, sterile stock areas and Pharmacy shall be free of spaces that can harbour rodents and insects. Details should comply with the relevant Public Health Regulations.
- 880 .14.00 Floor and wall penetrations by pipes, ducts and conduits shall be tightly sealed to minimise entry by rodents and insects. Joints of structural elements shall be similarly sealed.

### Surface Materials

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- 880 .15.00 Regular routine cleaning of the Health Care Facility can be carried out much more efficiently if the design of the building is adapted to its function. Unnecessary horizontal, textured, moisture retaining surfaces or inaccessible areas where moisture or soil will accumulate should, if possible, be avoided.
- 880 .16.00 All fixtures and fittings should be designed to allow easy cleaning and to discourage the accumulation of dust. Blinds are preferable to curtains for this reason.
- 880 .17.00 Where there is likely to be direct contact with patients, or with blood or body fluids, floors and walls should be surfaced with smooth, impermeable seamless materials, such as vinyl. In equipment processing areas, work surfaces should be non-porous, smooth and easily cleaned.
- 880 .18.00 In hospitals, all surfaces of patient care areas in high risk treatment areas, including the Operating Unit, Intensive Care Unit, Obstetrics Unit and Neonatal Special Care Nurseries, should be smooth and impervious and not liable to be damaged by disinfectants.