

# How to implement A CHEMICAL FREE CLEANING PROGRAM IN YOUR FACILITY

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The 3000 year old mop, chemicals and bucket method is fast becoming a process of the past for the accommodation and housekeeping industry. Over the last 15 years, the push for chemical free cleaning has increased dramatically, both domestically and commercially, and in a variety of industries. One of the leading industries in this movement is the accommodation sector, with the term "green cleaning" becoming more widespread.

**A**mong the reasons for the chemical free shift is the need for better cleaning efficiency and sanitisation through the use of a sustainable technology known as steam technology and microfibre.

As well as this, more guests and staff are developing allergies to chemical disinfectants, making steam cleaning a popular alternative.



## CHEMICAL FREE, HYGIENE CLEANING



### Duplex Steam

A Duplex Steam is ideal for low moisture daily cleaning of hard floors, carpets, Flotex flooring and spills. A Duplex is also great for periodic deep cleans.



**Carpets & Vinyl**



**Ceramic Tile**



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### Jetvac Junior

A Jetvac Junior uses +165°C dry steam to clean, deodorise and sanitise textile surfaces including curtains, mattresses, sofas or dining chairs in minutes.



**Curtains**



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### Jetsteam Maxi

Use steam to hygienically clean a standard sized aged care bathroom in less than 4 minutes with under a half glass of water and no chemicals.



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All types of accommodation facilities can implement a sustainable cleaning routine that covers key priority areas. Here are three priority areas of an accommodation facility where housekeepers can implement a chemical free cleaning program in their facility.

### MATTRESSES, UPHOLSTERY AND FURNITURE

When it comes to chemical free cleaning of upholstery, furniture and mattresses, it's important that whatever method is used, it needs to leave the surface thermally sanitised and deodorised, as well as caters for the removal of bed bugs.

Bed bugs are difficult to kill and get rid of and are developing immunities to common pesticides. Therefore sustainable technology is now the key exterminator. It's biologically impossible to develop immunity to extreme heat. They are extremely vulnerable to heat with high temperature steam of over +155°C instantly kills bed bugs and gets rid of their eggs.

In order to effectively sterilise upholstery and mattresses, high temperature steam at +155 degrees Celsius will not only eliminate bed bugs, but kill all bacteria and remove mould.

It's suggested to find steam cleaners that are at 5% water content, therefore the steam that is produced is "dry" steam, which won't leave your surfaces damp and risk further mould growth.

In regards to tools and attachments to complete these cleaning applications, using a lance to expose infestations to extreme heat can be extremely effective in cracks such as baseboards, windowsills, door jams, bed frames, and around telephone jacks to get rid of bed bugs and kill bed bug infestations including bedbug eggs.

Using a tool with a microfibre attachment is the most effective way to trap the high temperatures produced by the steam. This technique allows the tool to be moved around quickly on top of and around infested areas effectively getting rid of bed bugs. The use of the microfibre cloth has been proven to work several cms from the steam head allowing the steam to kill bed bugs in harder to reach areas providing a better extermination. Use this method on mattresses, sofas between cushions box springs and other fabric objects to efficiently use the steam to instantly kill bed bugs and get rid of bed bug eggs.



## CARPETS

Cleaning carpets in an accommodation environment can be tedious work and an OH&S issue if the incorrect processes are used. Chemicals are no longer an effective way for carpet cleaning with much of the chemical being left behind in the carpet fibres to attract dirt and cause allergies to patrons. When the dirt gets trapped within the fibres, stains often reappear within weeks of cleaning.

When implementing a high temperature steam process for carpet cleaning, find a method that achieves the 4 in 1 process that is required for a high standard carpet clean – wash, scrub, steam and dry. Again, just like the process of cleaning upholstery, the steam used

needs to be a “dry steam vapour”. This is so the carpet is dry in minutes eliminating downtime and the risk of mould build up.

## BATHROOMS

Using high temperature steam and microfibre in the bathroom not only will produce an “infection control cleaning” standard of clean but could also take just 5 minutes to complete.

Traditionally bathrooms have been cleaned using the old spray and wipe method with strong chemical disinfectants. Steam at +155 degrees Celsius and 94% dry, can deodorise and sanitise a bathroom as temperature that high eliminates all bacteria. The heat also thermally melts grime and destroys moulds

spores and the pressure blasts grime out of hard to reach areas.

The most efficient way to clean a typical sized bathroom with steam is combining steam with a nylon detailing brush and a steam mini mop with some type of microfibre pad. The lance will provide a jet of high pressure concentrated steam and the brush is used to detail clean smaller areas like taps, drains, rails, toilets etc. The Steam Mini Mop is used to clean the larger areas like floors, walls and shower recesses. ■

*Murray McDonald is Director of Duplex Cleaning Machines and has over 20 years experience in improving cleaning standards through chemical free solutions for thousands of accommodation facilities. Visit [www.duplexcleaning.com.au](http://www.duplexcleaning.com.au)*