



Practice Briefs

What should NOT be stored under sinks?

Under sink storage is an issue or concern of Infection Control, as waste water that may drip from the sink drain pipes would contaminate any clean items stored under the sink. Contaminated waste water dripping onto clean supplies would be a safety issue, for staff and patients. Therefore facilities should refrain from storing any clean items under sinks, especially patient/resident care items (supplies for patient care), anything paper that can absorb water (paper towels, cardboard, rags), and any items that would catch and hold water (vases, basins). Electronic equipment that could be damaged by water should not be stored under sinks. Utensils and dishes used for serving food should not be stored under sinks.

Resources:

The Joint Commission Standard IC.02.02.01, EP 4—Carrying out infection prevention activities when storing medical equipment, devices, and supplies

ICAP is a cooperative effort of UNMC/Nebraska Medicine and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. "ICAP Practice Briefs" are intended to provide evidence-based guidance on infection prevention issues; check linked references directly for the most current and more detailed information.