

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Burns/scalds from contact with hot surfaces or equipment



Burns/scalds from contact with hot food, hot liquids and steam



Slip injuries from spillages



Electric shock or burns from incorrect use or damaged/faulty equipment

What other precautions should be taken?



Clean up any spillages immediately

Babies and infants – heating bottles and food

Safety Task Card
STCCS 27

Unit Managers – use page overleaf to list any hazards and control measures specific to your site which are not listed below

Safe System of Work

1. Visually check the food/bottle warmer before it is used. Ensure that all wiring and plugs are secure and free from signs of damage.
2. Make sure that food/bottle warmers are complete, particularly with regard to water-jacket stoppers.
3. Where hot water is used in the food/bottle warmer, care must be taken to ensure that the container or reservoir is filled to the correct level to avoid an overflow of hot water when the bottle or food container is placed into it. Any stoppers or retaining screw tops must be securely in place to avoid leakage.
4. Only use equipment that is designed for use in the baby food/bottle warmer.
5. Drinks in baby bottles must only be heated in a baby bottle warmer – never in a microwave.
6. Only heat food in the microwave if the label indicates that it is suitable for microwave heating and follow the heating instructions on the label.
7. Only heat baby food for a short time, then stir the food, checking that it is at the desired temperature for the baby. If further heating is required, repeat the process until the desired temperature is reached. Take extreme care not to overheat the food - it only needs to be warmed slightly to be a comfortable temperature for the baby.
8. Do not place metal items such as spoons, lids etc into the microwave oven.
9. The parent/guardian must be advised that they are responsible for checking that the food or drink is at the correct temperature.
10. Customers using the baby food/bottle warming equipment must be given verbal or written instructions on its correct use and be advised to place the warmer onto a firm level surface away from children and other persons who may cause it to be knocked.

Continued on reverse

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.

List any additional hazards or risks you have identified and control measures required to manage these.

Babies and infants – heating bottles and food continued

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Safe System of Work

11. The Customer Notice “Baby Food Warning” must be displayed next to any microwave oven that is provided for customers to reheat baby food.
12. Clean up spillages as they occur and use wet floor warning signs when appropriate.

If you have any concerns, stop and speak with your line manager before proceeding.