

What are the hazards and how might they harm?



Electric shock as a result of contact with electrical sockets or faulty equipment



Burns/scalds from contact with steam



Burns/scalds from contact with hot surfaces



Slip injuries caused by wet floors



Inhalation injury, burns, skin irritation from cleaning chemicals



Trip injuries caused by trailing cables

What PPE should the individual wear?



What other precautions should be taken?



Wear appropriate enclosed footwear with slip-resistant soles



Visually inspect equipment and cables for any damage or defects, such as burn marks or frayed cables before use.

Steam vacuum cleaners

Safety Task Card

STCCL 22

Safe System of Work

1. Only use the equipment if you have been trained to do so and always follow the manufactures' instructions.
2. Erect warning signage before starting and where appropriate use barriers or signage to prevent unauthorised access.
3. The steam cleaner must be positioned on even ground, with the brakes engaged.
4. Follow the manufacture's instructions and safety precautions in the COSHH Task Card for the chemical being used. This includes wearing PPE such as protective eyewear and ensuring dilution water is below 40°C.
5. Ensure the safety catch works and is put in place at all times when the steam hose is not being used or when changing accessories.
6. The vacuum function must only be used to vacuum up spillages, liquids (no deeper than 1cm) and solid substances, and NOT for vacuuming dust.
7. Never vacuum up brine, acids, organic solvents or burning or smouldering matter.
8. Take care when cleaning around electrical sockets.
9. Never direct the steam jet towards people and keep hands away from the steam jet.
10. Keep the cable behind the line of work.
11. When cleaning equipment with an electrical supply, ensure they are turned off and isolated from the electrical supply.
12. Be aware that brushes and accessories can be hot immediately after use.
13. Turn equipment off before changing accessories or filling water or detergent containers.

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.

Steam vacuum cleaners continued

Safety Task Card

STCCL 22

Safe System of Work

14. If foam develops or there is a leak from the equipment, turn it off immediately and disconnect it from the mains supply.
15. Do not leave equipment unattended.
16. Clean up as spillages as they occur and use wet floor warning signs when appropriate.

SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)