

HYGIENIC BEHAVIOUR

Fact sheet No:9A

Why do I have to wear special clothing when I handle food?

- Outdoor clothes can be contaminated. You can pick up contamination by brushing past or sitting on a dirty object, also from the air, from contact with animals, from the soil and various other sources.
 - Changing into clean work clothes when you arrive means the food is protected from any of this contamination.
 - It can be important to change your footwear as well as your clothes. Contamination is easily collected on footwear. The contamination will be moved around the food premises. It can be aerosolised during cleaning, especially if pressure hoses are used. This results in contamination of the clean surfaces and equipment.
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- If you are only handling low risk food (such as raw meat) it may be enough to put a clean coat over your outdoor clothes.
 - Wearing a hat/head-covering (and a beard snood if needed) stops hair falling onto the food
 - Wearing jewellery or taking personal items into the food handling area is prohibited for the same reason. They can contaminate the food by falling into the food or by transferring contamination from outside the premises.
 - It is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager of the food business to provide the correct clothing for the employees. This may include footwear.

