

National standards of healthcare cleanliness 2025

Curtain changing or disposal frequency for General Practice: Quick reference guide

All blinds, curtains and screens (disposable or fabric) should be visibly clean with no blood, bodily substances, dust, dirt, debris stains or spillages. They should be included on cleaning schedules and records should be maintained for evidence/assurance.

The frequency of changing/cleaning is determined by assessing each functional area containing window blinds, curtains and screens, and assigning the area to one of the six functional risk (FR1-6) categories. In addition, any blinds, curtains or screens that are visibly soiled should be changed/cleaned immediately. All fabric curtains and screens should be laundered by a professional laundry service.

Description		FR1	FR2	FR3	FR4	FR5	FR6
Performance parameter: Curtains and blinds should be visibly clean with no blood and body fluids, dust, dirt, debris, stains or spillages	Functional risk (FR) examples	Minor injuries treatment areas	Treatment rooms where invasive procedures take place	Urgent care centres, sexual health clinics	Treatment rooms where invasive procedures do not take place, waiting area, consulting room, pharmacies, entrances, receptions and public corridors	Main reception	Offices, record stores, training rooms, store rooms
	Changing or disposal frequency	As per local curtain changing programme or change/clean when visibly soiled 6-monthly as a minimum	As per local curtain changing programme or change/clean when visibly soiled 6-monthly as a minimum	As per local curtain changing programme or change/clean when visibly soiled Annually as a minimum	As per local curtain changing programme or change/clean when visibly soiled 2-yearly as a minimum	As per local curtain changing programme or change/clean when visibly soiled 2-yearly as a minimum	As per local curtain changing programme or change/clean when visibly soiled 2-yearly as a minimum

Adapted from the *National standards of healthcare cleanliness 2025*, NHS England www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/national-standards-of-healthcare-cleanliness-2025/