

# When to Use Soap



- Use soap and water when **hands are visibly soiled or contaminated** with blood or other bodily fluids.

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Visibly Soiled = Hands on which soil or bodily fluids are readily visible.

- After caring for patients with *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff) infection
- Before eating
- After using the restroom
- Per your facility's policy

# When to Sanitize



- Use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) **in all other clinical situations** if hands are not visibly soiled.

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Well-formulated products often contain conditioners and emollients that can benefit the skin.

**ABHR is the gold standard  
in all situations when hands  
are not visibly soiled**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for hand hygiene in health-care settings—2002. Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002;51 (RR-16):1-45.

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