

Colour-Coding Poster

A printable wall poster explaining the BICSc four-colour system, to stop cross-contamination between areas.

The BICSc (British Institute of Cleaning Science) four-colour coding system assigns a colour to cleaning equipment based on the area it is used in, so a cloth or mop used on a toilet is never accidentally used in a kitchen. This poster is designed to be printed and displayed in a cleaner's cupboard or store room as a quick visual reference.

Download the poster

A printable A4/A3 poster showing the four colour zones, ready to laminate and display.

The four colours

Colour	Area	Typical equipment
Red	Washrooms, toilets, urinals, washroom floors	Cloths, mop heads, buckets marked red
Blue	General areas — offices, corridors, public areas	Cloths, mop heads, buckets marked blue
Green	Catering and food-preparation/food-contact areas	Cloths, mop heads, buckets marked green
Yellow	Higher-risk or isolation areas (e.g. clinical/infection-control zones)	Cloths, mop heads, buckets marked yellow

Why it matters

Using the wrong colour equipment in the wrong area risks carrying bacteria from a high-risk zone (a toilet) into a food-preparation or general area — the entire point of the system is to make cross-contamination visually obvious and hard to do by accident, even for new or temporary staff who have not memorised a written procedure.

How to roll it out on site

- Colour-code all mop heads, buckets, cloths and gloves to match the system
- Display the poster in every cleaner's cupboard and store room, not just a central office
- Cover it explicitly in new-starter induction and toolbox talks
- Check compliance as part of your routine quality audit

Where to reference it

Cross-reference the colour system in your specification so it is contractually expected, not just good practice left to chance.

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