

## Hazards of Using Portable Sinks in Child Care

The best way to clean hands is to wash with liquid soap and warm running water. Properly equipped handwashing sinks should be provided for handwashing. The use of portable sinks (those using a portable water supply and a catch system) create risk of health and safety hazards, and therefore they are not recommended for use in child care facilities for the following reasons:

- Portable systems are not connected to a sanitary sewer system and children and staff may be at risk of handling contaminated waste water.
- Portable systems may be difficult to clean and create the risk of spreading infectious diseases to children and staff.
- Portable systems may not be able to produce an adequate water stream or maintain an adequate warm water temperature, and both are necessary for effective hand hygiene.
- Portable systems are often not on their own circuit breaker. This may cause a spark to ignite hydrogen gas that might build up in the waste system, and a potential explosion may occur.
- Portable systems often require staff to lift heavy water containers. Such lifting may pose an occupational health risk of injury.

