

Version: 3 FOI Status: Public	DSG Safety Guidance – Prevention of Burns and Scalds due to Hot Beverages	Issued: January 2018 Review Due: January 2021
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**Departmental Safety Guidance –
Prevention of Burns and Scalds due to Hot Beverages**

Review/Issue Date	Any Significant Changes Required	By Whom
July 2014		Trevor Thacker & Jane Parke
September 2015	Yes – information included re: heating liquids in the microwave	Trevor Thacker
January 2018	Review	Trevor Thacker

Departmental Safety Guidance - Sign Off Sheet

Name of Establishment:	
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I have read and understood the guidance set out in the Derbyshire County Council, Adult Care Departmental Safety Guidance – Prevention of Burns and Scalds due to Hot Beverages and I agree to adhere to this guidance.

Name (please print)	Signature	Date

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Introduction

We are all at risk of scalding from a hot beverage, but when we are providing services to older people who may lack capacity or have some physical limitations, we need to think very carefully about how any hot beverage is presented to the person. It must be presented in a safe way whilst at the same time maintaining the person's dignity and making the experience enjoyable.

A balance needs to be struck between the need to properly infuse the drink, for tea this will require a temperature of around 100°C, and protecting skin which can be damaged at 43°C. The drink needs to remain palatable and in most cases 60°C will achieve this.

When developing personal service plans and at reviews, as part of the nutrition and hydration assessment, consideration must be given to how drinks are to be served and stated on the personal service plan for vulnerable clients.

A thermometer must be available to test the temperature of hot beverages should this be required.

Assessment

When completing a person's assessment/risk plan, please consider the following:

- Individuality
- Dexterity
- Capability
- Does the person require supervision when drinking?
- Medical conditions, some conditions are known to reduce sensitivity to heat e.g. diabetes Reynaud's disease etc. These may prevent people from realising that they are being burnt.
- Client's specific needs and preferences around positioning (e.g. seating etc.) to ensure comfort and safety while drinking the hot beverage.

Equipment

Consider the following in line with promoting dignity:

- The design of the cup/mug such as width of rim, with or without drinking spout, number of handles, size of handles, weight, size, stability, shape and colour.
- Level of drink in cup/mug
- Non-slip mats and other equipment to support the task.
- Consider the use of insulated drinking cup/mug.

It may be worth trialing equipment to help understand which is the most appropriate.

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Environment

Consider the following:

- Use of a table which is the same height as the arm on the chair
- Distractions for staff and or client e.g. other clients, visitors etc.
- Removal of any items which may pose a risk e.g. used crockery
- Sufficient lighting
- Ensuring that floor areas are free from obstacles and trip hazards

These ideas are not exhaustive; you must consider the safest option with consideration for dignity, respect and personal preferences.

Heating Liquids in the Microwave

Liquids that have been heated in the microwave can suddenly erupt. This is due to layers heated to higher temperatures being trapped under the surface of the liquid. To avoid this happening stir the liquid thoroughly before heating in the microwave and stir at least twice during the heating time. Stir the liquid again at the end.

Always use a suitable sized container, at least one third larger than the volume of liquid to be heated. If in doubt, use conventional methods, kettle, etc.