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HOUSEKEEPING PROFESSIONAL TODAY

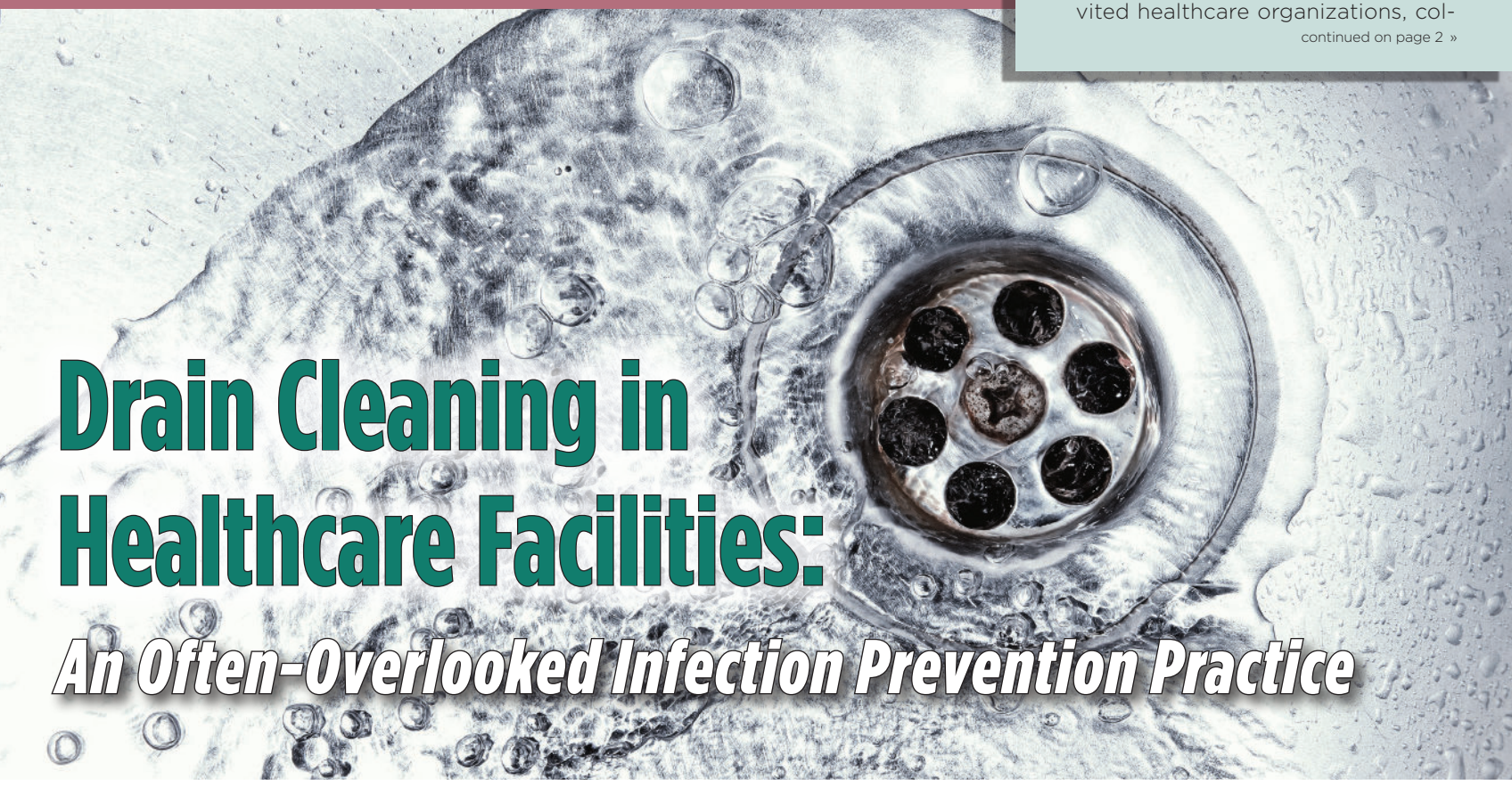
The Official Publication of the Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers Association (CHHA) CHHA

Celebrating Our EVS Heroes

The Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers' Association (CHHA) is proud to announce a special edition of Housekeeping Professional Today dedicated to the incredible EVS heroes recognized during International Housekeeping and Environmental Services Week, September 13–19, 2026.

Throughout the week, CHHA invited healthcare organizations, col-

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Drain Cleaning in Healthcare Facilities:

An Often-Overlooked Infection Prevention Practice

Drains are an essential part of healthcare infrastructure, yet they can be easily overlooked when developing environmental cleaning and infection prevention and control (IPAC) programs. In hospitals, long-term care homes, and other healthcare settings, sinks and drains can accumulate organic matter, develop biofilms, and provide an environment where microorganisms may persist. For Environmental Services (EVS) teams, understanding how drains should be maintained is an important part of keeping patient-care environments clean, safe, and functional.

Healthcare facilities should have clearly defined procedures for drain cleaning and maintenance that align with their facility-specific risk assessments, infection prevention policies, occupational health and safety requirements, and applicable Canadian guidance. Cleaning schedules should consider the type and location of the drain, its use, the patient population served, and the potential consequences of contamination.

Routine drain maintenance begins with physical cleaning and the removal of soil and organic material. Products and methods should be selected based on the facility's policies and the manufacturer's instructions for use. EVS staff should also understand that simply applying a disinfectant does not necessarily address established biofilm or accumulated organic material. Mechanical cleaning and appropriate maintenance are important components of an effective drain-management

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Post Your Job Openings *Free of Charge* Utilizing CHHA Channels

Connect with Canadian Healthcare Housekeeping & EVS Professionals

Finding the right people for healthcare housekeeping and Environmental Services (EVS) teams can be challenging. That's why the Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers' Association (CHHA) is helping connect the healthcare housekeeping and EVS industry across Canada with qualified workers.

Employers can now advertise job postings on the CHHA website and member portal at no cost, making it easier to reach individuals looking for opportunities in healthcare housekeeping and EVS.

Whether you're looking to hire an EVS supervisor, housekeeping manager, environmental services worker, laundry and linen professional or another member of your healthcare support team, CHHA's job-posting opportunity provides a simple way to share

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Drain Cleaning in Canadian Healthcare Facilities: An Often-Overlooked Infection Prevention Practice

program.

Steam cleaning has received increased attention as a potential method for drain maintenance. High-temperature steam can provide heat to surfaces that may be difficult to access through conventional cleaning methods, and some service providers promote steam as a means of addressing microorganisms and biofilm within drains.

However, steam cleaning should not automatically be considered a substitute for an established drain-cleaning program. Its effectiveness depends on factors such as temperature, contact time, equipment design, access to the drain, the condition of the drain, and the ability to deliver sufficient heat to the targeted areas. Facilities should also consider worker safety, splash and aerosol risks, equipment compatibility, wastewater considerations, and the manufacturer's recommendations.

Because healthcare facilities differ in their plumbing systems, patient populations and risk profiles, any steam cleaning process should be evaluated within the facility's IPAC and occupational health and safety frameworks. A documented procedure, appropriate training, and verification of the process are important before incorporating steam cleaning into routine practice.

To help healthcare professionals explore this emerging topic, the Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers' Association (CHHA) hosted a *Lunch & Learn* on September 29, titled ***"Sink Drain Steaming – Why It Matters."*** The session featured **Elle Robillard of Intersteam Technologies**, who discussed the use of steam cleaning for healthcare sink drains and the considerations surrounding this approach.

The session provided an opportunity for EVS professionals to learn more about drain steaming, ask questions, and consider how the approach may fit within their own facility's cleaning and maintenance practices.

CHHA members can access the recording through the CHHA member portal. If your facility is evaluating steam cleaning—or simply looking to strengthen its existing drain-cleaning program—the recording provides an opportunity to hear the discussion and consider the practical and IPAC-related factors before making decisions.

Ultimately, drain care is more than plumbing maintenance. It is one component of a comprehensive healthcare environmental hygiene program. A well-designed approach combines appropriate cleaning, maintenance, monitoring, staff education and IPAC oversight to help reduce environmental risks and support safer healthcare environments.

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Post Your Job Openings *Free of Charge*

Connect with Canadian Healthcare Housekeeping & EVS Professionals

your openings with a community that understands the important role these professionals play in keeping Canadian healthcare environments clean, disinfected and safe.

CHHA brings together healthcare housekeeping and EVS professionals, leaders and organizations from across Canada. By posting your available positions through CHHA, your organization can put job opportunities directly in front of people who are engaged in the healthcare housekeeping and EVS sector.

And there's no additional cost!

Posting a job is easy. CHHA stakeholders can submit their job openings for consideration and publication on the CHHA website and within the member portal.

Job postings can include key information such as the position title, organization, location, responsibilities, qualifications, employment details, and application instructions.

Whether you have one position to fill or multiple opportunities, CHHA's job-posting benefit can help you get the word out to the Canadian healthcare housekeeping and EVS community.

CHHA is committed to providing practical resources and meaningful benefits that support the people and organizations working in healthcare housekeeping and Environmental Services.

Your next great team member could be part of the CHHA community.

If your organization has a healthcare housekeeping or EVS position to fill, take advantage of this free CHHA benefit and share your opportunity with the sector. Please email your job postings to: tanja@issa-canada.com.

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Celebrating Our EVS Heroes

leagues, leaders and team members to nominate exceptional Environmental Services and housekeeping professionals who go above and beyond every day to help keep healthcare environments clean, disinfected and safe.

The response was truly inspiring.

This special edition — which will be released in the coming weeks — shines a spotlight on the individuals and teams whose dedication, professionalism, and commitment often happen behind the scenes — but whose work is essential to every patient, resident, family member, and healthcare professional who enters a Canadian healthcare facility.

To everyone who took the time to submit a nomination: ***THANK YOU!*** Your thoughtful words and stories demonstrate just how much EVS professionals contribute to healthcare. Every nomination was a reminder that recognition matters — and that the work performed by EVS and healthcare housekeeping teams does not go unnoticed.

Most importantly, this celebration is about more than individual recognition. It is about recognizing an entire profession and the vital role EVS teams play in infection prevention, patient safety, quality of care and the overall healthcare experience.

CHHA is proud to stand alongside the dedicated professionals who help make Canadian healthcare environments safer every day!

NOT A CHHA MEMBER?



The Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers' Association (CHHA) is celebrating Thanksgiving early with **a 20% discount for new members**. Join a community dedicated to supporting Canada's healthcarehousekeeping and EVS professionals. Offer available for a limited time. ***Join today!***

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