



OCTOBER 2008

HOME HYGIENE NEWS

DEAR READER,

WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF HOME HYGIENE NEWS, IN WHICH WE COVER THE RECENT NEWS STORY ABOUT CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE, PLUS THE HYGIENE ISSUES SURROUNDING THE LATEST CHANGES TO COUNCIL RUBBISH COLLECTIONS.

WE VALUE YOUR COMMENTS, SO CONTACT DOMESTOS@UK.COHNWOLFE.COM WITH ANY FEEDBACK YOU HAVE ON THE ISSUES RAISED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON SUPER-BUG C.DIFF

Clostridium difficile (or C.diff) hit the headlines last month when figures from the Office for National Statistics were released. The figures showed that the number of deaths involving C.diff in England and Wales rose by 28 per cent between 2006 and 2007. The symptoms include fever, loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhoea, which as the figures have shown, can be very dangerous among the vulnerable.

The elderly, those taking antibiotics or acid-suppressing stomach drugs, and those with a condition such as colitis or Crohn's disease are most at risk. Although specific links between these factors and deaths as a result of C.diff are not included in the new statistics, they do state that in more than half of cases, another illness was recorded as the primary reason for death (with C.diff being an additional factor in the death).

FACT BOX

- > Deaths from the infection jumped to over 8,000, according to the official figures
- > The rise was higher among men than women
- > Since 2005, the number of reported deaths has nearly doubled, from 3,757 to 8,324
- > The DOH claimed the rise was the result of more accurate reporting of deaths by hospitals rather than a continuing spread of infections
- > Conversely, cases involving MRSA are on the decline – references on death certificates dropped slightly from 1,652 in 2006 to 1,593 in 2007

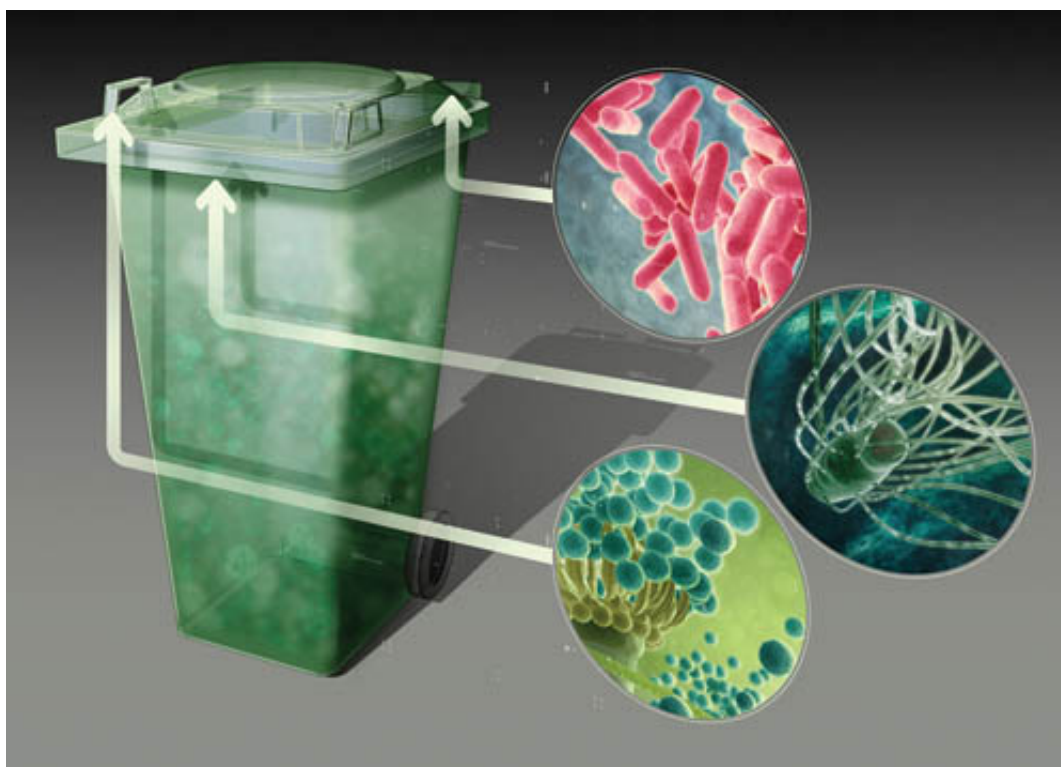
The Domestos experts have put together a fact sheet you can download **[insert click through]** with further background on the bacteria and reassuring information for any of your clients who are at risk of being affected by it.

Have you experienced issues with C.diff? Why not share information with your peers and colleagues by starting a conversation on the healthcare professional forum discussion group? **[Insert click through]**

The home hygiene forum and online resources are designed for you as a healthcare professional and we value your feedback. If you have any comments or queries please email domestos@uk.cohnwolfe.com.

RUBBISH COLLECTIONS: THE HYGIENE IMPACT

As you'll remember from Summer 2007, the country was in uproar against the new 'alternate weekly collections' due to the hygiene issue of leaving rotting waste sitting outside our homes for so long before being taken away. Around 200 local authorities reduced their service to once a fortnight, however a number have now switched back to weekly collections...although this comes with a catch, many councils are now moving to smaller bins.



Binmen are instructed to leave rubbish that doesn't fit into the bins and those who overfill their bins could be fined or prosecuted. Rubbish spilling out of bins and sitting loose on the ground next to the bin is a cause for concern and possible health risk, we've outlined the main routes for infection from wheelie bins below:

- Contact with a contaminated part of the bin
- Breathing in airborne fungal spores escaping when opening or closing a wheelie bin
- Via flies or household pets such as cats jumping onto the bin

Therefore, reducing our waste and keeping bins as hygienically clean as possible is becoming more and more important. See our tips below on good bin hygiene:

1. Kill germs and reduce odours by cleaning your wheelie bin after each collection – Domestos Bleach Cleaning Spray is perfect for targeting hard to reach areas inside, and don't forget to give the lid and handle a quick spray and wipe down to help keep your bin hygienically clean
2. Wash your hands every time you touch the bin
3. Wrap up organic food waste properly to keep germs confined, and think about composting vegetable waste
4. Keep your bin lid closed to keep flies out and help keep smells to a minimum
5. Follow your local council's guidelines for recycling

For more information and to check the recycling schemes for your local councils, click through to 'Clean my bin' at www.domestos.co.uk.

Unlike other household cleaning products, bleach kills all known germs including bacteria, fungi and viruses.
Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.

For further information or if you have any feedback on this newsletter please email: domestos@uk.cohnwolfe.com