



# HOUSEKEEPING STANDARDS

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GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE

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### INTRODUCTION

This good practice guidance identifies the opportunity that high standards of housekeeping offer as part of a fire prevention strategy.

A fire event can only materialise when three elements are present:

1. Oxygen.
2. Fuel (some form of combustible material).
3. Ignition point.

Some simple and regular ongoing housekeeping routines help to reduce the “fuel” element potential.

### KEY CONTROLS

Among the key controls below, particular focus has been applied to combustibles which could ignite at lower temperatures:

1. Operate a regular and ongoing housekeeping routine to remove day-to-day debris accumulation (inside and outside of the factory).
2. Lint and dust accumulations should be kept to an absolute minimum (see “Good Practice Guidance – Lint Management HK001 for further practical advice).
3. No laundry product should be stored against hot surface areas (i.e. storing against the side of ironer, behind washing/finishing equipment or against unlagged steam pipes and valves).
4. All combustible materials should be kept to a minimum in external areas of the factory. This would include plastic containers, wood pallets, laundry products which all should be stored in dedicated areas.
5. All rubbish waste should be stored in appropriate waste containers / bins, particularly in external areas for rubbish awaiting disposal and regularly emptied.
6. All accessible internal areas of equipment should be subject to a housekeeping routine as part of the factory “planned preventative maintenance” programme, with particular focus on motors and their surrounding areas (and any other hot areas).

Ensure that appropriate housekeeping routines are included as part of the “End of Day” shutdown process (e.g. check smoking areas and boiler house)

Note 1 – This document has been published as a guideline for “Good Practice” only. It is not legal advice or a legal briefing document  
Note 2 - The “Good Practices” highlighted in the document may be incorporated into individual company health and safety management systems. Copyright © 2020 Textile Services Association. All rights reserved. For further information on this guideline please contact [tsa@tsa-uk.org](mailto:tsa@tsa-uk.org)



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