

How and When to Disinfect Surfaces

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Updated 3/10/2020

Definitions:

Cleaning uses soap or detergent to **remove dirt and debris** from surfaces.

Sanitizing is meant to **reduce, but not kill**, the occurrence and growth of germs from surfaces.

Disinfection uses a chemical to **kill germs** on surfaces that are likely to harbor germs. Disinfectants work best on a clean surface and usually require a longer surface contact period (between 1 - 10 minutes) to work.

When to clean, sanitize, or disinfect:

- **Clean surfaces before sanitizing or disinfecting.** Sanitizers and disinfectants are less effective on dirty surfaces. It's important to clean first. This can be done with pre-mixed cleaning or disinfectant wipes. If wipes are used for cleaning and disinfection, ensure they are disinfectant strength (read label), and use separate wipes for each step.
- **Sanitize** showers after (or before) every use. Sanitize food contact surfaces before and after they are used. Sanitize high touch surfaces in between periods of disinfection. *Mix 1 teaspoon of bleach with 1 gallon of water.*
- **Disinfect high touch surfaces** (e.g., restrooms, handles, railings, remotes, tables, etc.) several times throughout the day (2-5 times or more depending on your operating hours). Also disinfect areas known to be used by an ill person or contaminated with bodily fluids.

Safety precautions:

- **Always follow product label instructions** for information about recommended PPE (e.g., gloves, face masks, eye protection, etc.), how to properly use the chemical, contact time (amount of time chemical needs to remain on a surface before being wiped off), etc.
- **Protect yourself** before handling any chemicals. Chemicals can be very damaging to skin. Always wear gloves.
- **Open windows and doors** to ensure outdoor air is flowing through your facility or site. Do not clean any rooms with closed doors. This will help maximize air circulation and reduce health risks.
- **Use single-use paper towels** when cleaning with spray-bottle chemicals. Wiping cloths can harbor germs if they are not disinfected in between use on multiple surfaces. Wiping cloths are appropriate when solutions are prepared in a bucket, allowing them to be fully submerged in the solution and disinfected throughout the cleaning process.

Preparing the right disinfectant using bleach:

Daily Disinfectant that kills COVID-19
Mix 5 Tablespoons of bleach with 1 gallon of water
Use this mixture as a daily disinfectant to ensure COVID-19 is killed if present at your site.
Special Disinfectant (For hepatitis A or blood, vomit, and human waste)
Mix 1 cup of bleach with 1 gallon of water
Prepare this mixture when a confirmed or suspected hepatitis A case has visited or spent time at your site, and for disinfecting after a blood, vomit, or human waste spill.

Shelf life of bleach water solutions:

- Solutions added to **spray bottles must be remade every 24 hours**. *Use single-use paper towels with spray-bottle solutions and cleaning chemicals.*
- Solution prepared in **buckets must be remade every 2-4 hours, or when the water becomes cloudy**. *Use wiping cloths or single-use paper towels.*