

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations



Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. Following manufacturer's instructions thoroughly for the use of disinfectants is important and will help provide the best results possible.

General Recommendations for Routine Cleaning and Disinfection of Households

Community members can practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, telephones, remote controls) with household cleaners and EPA-registered disinfectants that are appropriate for the surface, following label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product, including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product. A list of EPA registered disinfectants is located here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>

How to clean and disinfect:

Surfaces

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves should be discarded after each cleaning. If reusable gloves are used, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and should not be used for other purposes. Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Consider using disposable paper towels for cleaning and discard them in a sealed waste container.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions (1/3 cup of unscented household bleach per one gallon of water), alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
- Be sure to allow the disinfectant to remain on the surface for the prescribed time as directed on the label. This will allow the disinfectant to work properly. For surfaces that could be placed in the mouth of children, rinse the surface with water after the appropriate contact time of the disinfectant and air dry.
- For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present. Clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning, launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Clothing, Towels, Linens and Other Items That Go in the Laundry

- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from an ill person and then discard after each use. If no gloves are used, be sure to wash hands afterwards.
- Do not shake laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing viruses through the air.
- Launder items, as appropriate, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces. If possible, consider placing a bag liner that is either disposable (can be thrown away) or can be laundered.

Approved Disinfectants

- Clorox Multi Surface Cleaner + Bleach
- Clorox Disinfecting Wipes
- Clorox Commercial Solutions Clorox Disinfecting Spray
- Lysol Heavy-Duty Cleaner Disinfectant Concentrate
- Lysol Disinfectant Max Cover Mist
- Lysol Clean & Fresh Multi-Surface Cleaner
- Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant Wipes
- Sani-Prime Germicidal Spray

For more information: www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus

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