

How and When to Disinfect Surfaces

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Updated 3/13/2020

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** before or after every use. In addition to staff disinfecting shower stalls 1-2 times a day, leave a spray bottle(s) of sanitizer in restrooms/showers for clients to sanitize showers before or after they utilize them. **Sanitize food contact surfaces** before and after they are used – do not disinfect dishes and equipment used to cook, prepare, or serve food. Lastly, **sanitize high touch surfaces in between periods of disinfection.**
 - ❖ Sanitizer: *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 on what pathogens the chemical is effective against (e.g., human coronaviruses, hepatitis A, norovirus, etc.), 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.
- **Label** bottles/containers for sanitizers and disinfectants prepared onsite.
- **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:

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| 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.*