



## Cleaning and Disinfecting

*The COVID-19 outbreak presents unusual circumstances that require us to do whatever is necessary to further our mission. This fact sheet discusses simple things that you can do to keep yourself and others healthy and stop the spread of this virus. Treat everyone as though they are a COVID-19 carrier and every common surface as if it harbors the germs. Remember, one careless person can spread the virus to the whole work unit. It is our responsibility to keep our community and colleagues safe.*

**Cleaning vs Disinfecting:** *Cleaning* is the process of removing foreign material (dirt, grease, etc.) sticking to surfaces. *Disinfecting* works by using chemicals to kill pathogens (bacteria, fungi, viruses, etc.) that remain on surfaces. If surfaces are not adequately cleaned, then disinfectants are less efficient at killing pathogens. So.....clean well, then kill with disinfectants!

**Daily cleaning and disinfection should be done with sanitary products such as:**

- Soap/detergent and water (great at cleaning, not so effective at disinfection)
- A bleach solution made by mixing 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water
  - Thoroughly rinse containers before mixing the solution because bleach can make dangerous fumes with other chemicals, especially ammonia-based products
  - Do not mix the bleach solution in an enclosed space like a truck cab
  - Bleach solutions lose their effectiveness over time: *Dispose of diluted bleach solutions after 7 days, and dispose of opened bleach bottles after 1 month*
- Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol
- Other [EPA-registered household disinfectants](#)
- Never mix disinfectants, especially household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser

**Secondary disinfectant containers must be properly labeled** to prevent adverse reactions between chemicals (i.e. bleach, alcohol hydrogen-peroxide and other chemicals) that can cause hazardous vapors when mixed.

**Employees should use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when disinfecting such as:**

- **Gloves and face shield or goggles** when mixing concentrated materials into secondary containers for daily use. Avoid using product application methods that cause splashing or generate aerosols. It is recommended that the below gloves be used:
  - Disposable Nitrile/Rubber Gloves
  - Heavy-Duty Chemical-Resistant Re-usable Gloves – Properly clean and disinfect the gloves before and after each use
  - Disposable latex/vinyl gloves - These are an acceptable last resort option in the event disposable nitrile/rubber gloves are not readily available due to supply shortages.

## Examples of frequently touched surfaces to disinfect:

- Cab door switches
- Cab door grab handle and surface
- Steering wheel
- Ignition key
- Gauges and switches on dash and in cab
- HVAC louvers on dash
- Exposed dash surfaces
- Radio controls
- Seat adjustment knobs
- Seat belt buckles
- Hood latches

- Two-way radio microphone and knobs
- Freedom or another spreader controller
- Overhead console doors and locks
- Cup holders
- Manual/automatic transmission shift lever
- Seat covers (vinyl, fabric, or leather)
- Cabinet door handles
- Fire extinguishers
- Reflector kits
- First aid kits

### Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- A list of disinfectants that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>).
- Diluted household bleach solutions (at least 1000ppm sodium hypochlorite) can be used if appropriate for the surface. Bleach dilution calculators are available online to ensure that solutions are prepared with effective concentrations (<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/health-topics/environmental-occupational-health/water-quality/chlorine-dilution-calculator>)
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for disinfectant application, ensuring a contact time of at least 1 minute, and allowing proper ventilation during and after application.

### Soft (Porous) Surfaces

- For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
- Launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.
- Use products suitable for porous surfaces that are EPA-approved for use against the COVID-19 virus

### Electronics

- For electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines, remove visible contamination if present.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
- Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.
- If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

Please follow all the information provided to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to do everything we can to keep our employees informed and safe. For additional information and to stay informed reference the Centers for Disease Control or the Pennsylvania Department of Health websites.

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