



How to clean and disinfect your home and workplace

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To clean your home and workplace to reduce the spread of coronavirus, COVID-19, look at your cleaning product. If the product says that it kills coronavirus on the label, it is EPA-approved and adequate. Several name-brand products do, such as Lysol and Clorox.

The key is to use the product right.

First, clean dirt off of the surface. Then wipe the surface with disinfectant. Leave the surface you are cleaning wet with disinfectant for as many minutes as the product instructions require. This step is key and people often miss this important step. It is not enough to just wipe a surface with a rag dampened with disinfectant!

What to clean:

Clean high-touch areas such as door handles, phones, remote controls, light switches and bathroom fixtures. Clean horizontal surfaces such as countertops, kitchen tables, desktops and other places where cough droplets could land frequently. The most important factors to disinfecting are cleaning frequently, thoroughly, and using the cleaning product correctly! No special products are required! A one-time “deep clean” is not effective.

Going deeper

It is unclear at this time exactly how long COVID-19 can remain on a surface. Early evidence suggests that the virus can survive for several days at a typical room temperature. This is why wiping down commonly touched surfaces helps to prevent the spread of illnesses like COVID-19 and the flu.

Most disinfecting wipes claim they can kill up to 99.9% of germs, and if used appropriately, they may be effective against COVID-19. Make sure to follow the instructions on the disinfectant label. It is important to clean a visibly dirty surface to rid it of dirt and debris before disinfecting. **Do not reuse wipes to wipe down multiple surfaces.** This can transfer germs from the used wipe to other surfaces. To prevent this, use one wipe for each surface and then throw it out. Do not dry the surface after using the disinfectant wipe. The surface that you are disinfecting will need to stay wet for the amount of time listed on the label. This step is important because the contact time is what is required to kill the germs.

In the home or dorm environment: Clean all high-touch surfaces every day. High-touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets and bedside tables. Also clean any surface that may have blood, stool or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe according to the 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.

Other community environments (schools, jails, etc.): Follow your organization's routine cleaning and disinfection program. Emphasize cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces such as bathrooms, water coolers, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones and toys. Special processes beyond routine cleaning are not necessary or recommended at this time. Follow standard procedures for cleaning and disinfecting with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant with a claim for human coronaviruses.

Custodial staff should follow the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions for use, including:

- Use the proper concentrations of disinfectant
- Allow required wet contact time
- Pay close attention to hazard warnings and instructions for using personal protective items such as gloves and eye protection
- Use disinfectants in a sufficiently ventilated space
- Follow the safety data sheets (SDS) for each disinfectant chemical