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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Disinfectant that kills COVID-19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mix 5 Tablespoons of bleach with 1 gallon of water</td>
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</table>

**Use this mixture as a daily disinfectant** to ensure COVID-19 is killed if present at your site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Disinfectant (For hepatitis A or blood, vomit, and human waste)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mix 1 cup of bleach with 1 gallon of water</td>
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</table>

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.*