

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings

This document provides guidance on cleaning and disinfection of public settings, including schools, transit, colleges/universities, retail locations and other workplaces in Ontario. For more information, please contact your local public health unit.

What you should know

- Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19.
- Although touching a contaminated surface or object is not the main way COVID-19 is spread, frequently touched surfaces are the most likely to be contaminated.
- Use only disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN). A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada. Household bleach does not have a DIN, but is an effective disinfectant.
- Check the expiry date and safety instructions of products you use and always follow manufacturer's instructions.

Clean frequently touched surfaces twice per day

- In addition to routine cleaning, surfaces that have frequent contact with hands should be cleaned and disinfected twice per day and when visibly dirty.
- Examples include doorknobs, elevator buttons, light switches, toilet handles, counters, hand rails, touch screen surfaces and keypads.
- In addition to routine cleaning, check with your organization for any specific protocols for cleaning for COVID-19.



Select products

Cleaners

- Break down grease and remove organic material from the surface.
- Used separately before using disinfectants.
- Can be purchased with cleaner and disinfectant combined in a single product.

Disinfectants

- Have chemicals that kill most germs.
- Applied after the surfaces have been cleaned.
- Have a drug identification number (DIN), excluding bleach

Disinfectant Wipes

- Have combined cleaners and disinfectants in one solution.
- May become dry due to fast drying properties. Should be discarded if they become dry.
- Not recommended for heavily soiled surfaces.

Prepare products for use

- Where possible, use ready for use, pre-mixed solutions.
- Never mix different chemical products together.
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions to:
 - properly prepare solution
 - allow adequate contact time (time the surface remains wet) for disinfectant to kill germs (see product label)
 - wear gloves when handling cleaning products including wipes
 - wear any other personal protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer

Use bleach safely

- Bleach is not a cleaning agent. Surfaces must be clean in order for bleach to disinfect.
- Only dilute bleach by adding water, not other chemicals. Bleach usually comes as 5.25% or ~50,000 parts per million (ppm) sodium hypochlorite. For more information on how to dilute bleach (e.g., to 100 ppm or 0.01%), see the [Chlorine Dilution Calculator](#).
- Store bleach solutions in closed, labeled containers, away from heat and light.
- Dilute bleach with water immediately before use as it loses potency over time, and use the solution the same day.

For more information please contact: _____

The information in this document is current as of April 29, 2021