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 contaminated surfaces is not the main way COVID-19 is spread, cleaning your hands is important, particularly after handling surfaces and objects that are not or cannot be cleaned and disinfected (e.g., porous objects).
- Use 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 may 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.

Establish a cleaning schedule

- Identify surfaces, objects and equipment that need routine cleaning as well as disinfection.
- Indoor surfaces that are frequently touched are to be cleaned and disinfected on a regularly scheduled basis 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 for any specific cleaning and disinfection protocols for your setting.
## Select products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cleaners</th>
<th>Disinfectants</th>
<th>Disinfectant Wipes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Break down grease and remove organic material from the surface.</td>
<td>• Have chemicals that kill most germs.</td>
<td>• Some have combined cleaners and disinfectants in one solution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Used separately before using disinfectants.</td>
<td>• Applied after the surfaces have been cleaned.</td>
<td>• May become dry due to fast drying properties. Should be discarded if they become dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Can be purchased with cleaner and disinfectant combined in a single product.</td>
<td>• Have a drug identification number (DIN), excluding bleach.</td>
<td>• Not recommended for heavily soiled surfaces.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 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 a 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 Public Health Ontario’s [Chlorine Dilution Calculator](http://www.chlorinecalculator.com).
- Store bleach solutions in closed, labeled containers, away from heat and light. Dilute bleach with water just before use as it loses potency within 24 hours.

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The information in this document is current as of April 14, 2022.

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