



## Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Cleaning Public Restrooms

This interim guidance applies to public restrooms and portable toilets. Some facilities, such as healthcare and child care, have special rules and regulations that may specify alternative cleaning and disinfecting processes. Remember that cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19 is highly effective. It can be easier to eliminate this virus through these methods than many other germs, especially when applied frequently.

### Definitions

- Cleaning - removes dirt, grease, and grime.
- Sanitizing - reduces germs by killing them, but does not remove dirt. Recommended for food contact surfaces and other food service areas.
- Disinfecting - reduces germs by killing them, but does not remove dirt. Recommended for high touch areas such as public restrooms. Disinfectants need contact time to kill germs. Disinfectants are not food safe.

### Supplies Needed

- Detergent - for cleaning phase before sanitizing or disinfecting.
- Disinfectant - use an EPA-registered disinfectant for use against novel coronavirus. Refer to the list of [products pre-approved](#) for use against emerging enveloped viral pathogens, or the [list of disinfectants](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2.

### Safety Guidelines During Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Discard gloves after use and wash hands with soap and water immediately. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol may be used.
- Wear eye protection if there is a potential for splashes to the face.
- Wear an apron or uniform to protect personal clothing.
- Ensure that the area is well ventilated while using detergents and disinfectants.
- Store chemicals in labeled, closed containers in a secure area.
- Use chemicals as labeled, following the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

## General Guidance

- Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting public restrooms.
- Practice frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high touch areas such as:  
Door handles, faucets, knobs, soap and sanitizer dispenser levers, counters, door latches, door panels, baby changing areas, safety rails, toilet seats/handles/lids, and the walls, floors, and surfaces around these areas.
- Ensure hand washing areas are fully stocked at all times with hand soap, disposable towels (if provided), and/or hand sanitizer (if soap and water are not available).
- Post a cleaning schedule in the restroom.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe and effective use of all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g. dilution concentration, application and contact time, ventilation, etc.).
- Provide training and education to staff cleaning restrooms on the importance of wearing proper equipment, how to apply and remove protective equipment safely, such as gloves, and good hand hygiene after cleaning.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting

1. Open windows/doors to increase ventilation prior to cleaning, if possible.
2. Clean surfaces and objects that are soiled first using a soap detergent prior to disinfection. This will remove dirt and make disinfectants more effective.
3. Use an EPA approved disinfectant, focus on high contact surfaces, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for concentration and contact time.
4. Trash removal - wear gloves, only handle trash bags by empty upper sections, do not hold the bag against your body. Tie the trash bag before placing in conventional waste.
5. Follow OSHA's standards on bloodborne pathogens and proper disposal of hazardous waste.
6. Maintain cleaning equipment. Follow manufacturer's instructions on cleaning equipment such as cloths and mops. Using dirty cleaning equipment can spread germs or even add more germs to surfaces. It is important to rotate sections of the cleaning cloth, rinse cloths and mops often in clean water, or regularly change to a clean cloth or mop when cleaning.

## Resources:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

[www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/cleaning-disinfection-protocols-covid-19.pdf](http://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/cleaning-disinfection-protocols-covid-19.pdf)

[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

[www.Nyc.gov](http://www.Nyc.gov)