COVID-19: General Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-Health Care Settings

This document provides recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting non-health care settings, such as commercial and residential buildings, workplaces and retail establishments, to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Safety measures for cleaning staff:
- Have a safety plan in place for protecting staff who use cleaning chemicals.
- Provide appropriate protective gear to cleaning staff.
- Train staff on using cleaning and disinfectant products according to label directions.
- Remind staff to frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Remind staff to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Provide face coverings at no cost to staff who come into direct contact with other people.
- For more information, visit the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s page on control and prevention at osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html.

Recommendations for routine cleaning and disinfection:
Routine cleaning and disinfection of surfaces can help slow the spread of COVID-19. Cleaning and disinfection should be done at least after every work shift daily or as needed.

- **Focus on shared and high-touch surfaces.**
  - High-touch surfaces and objects vary by location. Examples include doorknobs, light switches, handrails, kitchen appliances, countertops, drawer handles, tables, sinks, faucet and toilet handles, drinking fountains, elevator buttons, push plates, phones, keys and remote controls.
  - When cleaning workspaces, cubicles and other office areas, make sure to disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as desks, chairs, phones, printers, keyboards and computer mice.
  - Clean restrooms frequently.
  - When cleaning vehicles, pay special attention to surfaces and objects that are touched often by passengers, such as door handles, window buttons, locks, payment machines, arm rests, seat cushions, buckles and seatbelts. Also wipe down surfaces that drivers frequently touch, such as the steering wheel, radio buttons, turn indicators and cup holders. For more information, visit nyc.gov/health/coronavirus and search for “Guidance for Vehicle Operators.”
  - When cleaning food establishments, pay special attention to cash registers, and food, deli and checkout counters. For more information, visit nyc.gov/health/coronavirus and search for “Business and Non-Health Care Settings Guidance.”
• Clean first, then disinfect.
  o Clean surfaces with soap or detergent and water (or a cleaning product) first to remove visible dirt and grime. Disinfectants are most effective on clean surfaces and objects.
  o For hard or non-porous objects (for example, tables, desks, floors, doorknob and phones), use a disinfectant that is effective against the virus that causes COVID-19, such as bleach, peroxide or an alcohol-based product. For a list of disinfectants that are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as effective against the virus that causes COVID-19, visit [epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2](http://epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2).
    ▪ If you’re disinfecting with a diluted bleach solution, follow the label’s instructions for use and be sure to properly ventilate your surroundings. Check the product’s expiration date. Add 4 teaspoons of bleach to 1 quart or 1 liter of water. Prepare a new solution daily or as needed.
    ▪ If you’re disinfecting with a 70% alcohol solution, wipe the surface or object thoroughly with the solution and let it dry.
    ▪ In food service settings, make sure to use a disinfectant that is safe on surfaces and equipment that come into contact with food.
  o For clothing, towels, linens and other items that go in the laundry, wash at the warmest possible setting with your usual detergent and then dry completely. Do not “hug” or shake dirty laundry before washing to avoid spreading the virus or other dirt and bacteria. Laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people’s items.
  o For other soft items (for example, drapes, upholstered sofas and rugs), follow the manufacturer’s instructions or use a cleaning product specifically for that item. For example, use a steam cleaner or apply a disinfectant product that is appropriate for fabrics, according to New York State’s list of disinfectants (available at [dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/covid19.pdf](http://dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/covid19.pdf)). Always read and follow the directions on cleaning and disinfecting product labels.
  o Wear appropriate gloves or other personal protective equipment (PPE) as instructed on the product label. Throw away gloves after each cleaning, and wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. 5.29.20