



Cleaning Guidelines

General cleaning principles

- ❖ Routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces using appropriate detergent/disinfectant solutions or wipes is effective at minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Particular attention should be paid to horizontal surfaces such as tables, chairs and frequently touched surfaces such as door handles as well as bathrooms.
- ❖ It is recommended that the frequency of cleaning in all areas be increased and should be done at the end of each event.
- ❖ Carpets should be regularly vacuumed - ideally with a vacuum cleaner fitted with a HEPA filter.
- ❖ It is preferable to use disposable cleaning mops and cloths and these should be changed regularly. If unable to use disposable mops and cloths, then reusable mops and cloths are to be cleaned and disinfected regularly e.g. some removable mop heads and cloths can undergo a wash cycle in the washing machine and then allowed to air dry. All cleaning equipment (including mop heads) should be stored clean and dry.

Dishes and cutlery

- ❖ Dishes and cutlery are to be cleaned in a commercial or domestic dishwasher using appropriate dishwasher detergent. If a dishwasher is not available, reusable dishes and cutlery must be cleaned using hot water and appropriate dishwashing detergent. Care should be taken to ensure all items are thoroughly cleaned. Dishes and cutlery should be stored clean and dry in a cupboard or covered to prevent potential contamination from sneezes or coughs. Prior to and after handling dishes and cutlery staff are to ensure they practice good hand hygiene (wash with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser for at least 20 seconds).

Appropriate cleaning products

- ❖ Cleaning products should be chosen that are approved for the surface to be cleaned. In general, combined detergent/disinfectant solutions or wipes are acceptable for hard surfaces. Some products such as bleach can damage fabrics, stainless steel and other surfaces.
- ❖ Safety Data Sheets are to be available for all chemicals utilised.
- ❖ For most general cleaning tasks, a neutral detergent with pH between 6 and 8 should be used.
- ❖ The use of combined detergent / disinfectant wipes is acceptable, or solutions can be prepared fresh each day.
- ❖ If using a bleach solution look for products which give you a 1000ppm (0.1%) bleach solution either neat or when diluted with water.
- ❖ Always follow the manufacturer instructions if any detergent or disinfectant products require mixing with water or dissolving prior to use.
- ❖ Remember to never mix different cleaning products as in some instances toxic gases can be generated.
- ❖ Avoid 'topping up' detergent or disinfectant containers as this can lead to contamination of the containers.
- ❖ If a product requires decanting from a larger to a smaller container, ensure:
 - ⇒ The detergent/disinfectant Safety Data Sheet is available and current.
 - ⇒ Appropriate PPE is worn to avoid detergent/disinfectant splashes.
 - ⇒ Containers must be washed thoroughly with warm water and detergent and air dried prior to reuse.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for cleaning staff

- ❖ The risk to cleaning staff in non-healthcare settings is lower than the risk to cleaning staff working in environments where there may be sick people. There is no need for cleaning staff to wear surgical masks or gowns when cleaning.
- ❖ Cleaning staff in non-healthcare settings should be advised to:
 - ⇒ Use any chemicals in accordance with the Manufacturer's instruction.
 - ⇒ Avoid touching your face especially mouth, eyes and nose when cleaning.
 - ⇒ Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the cleaning products they are using e.g. disposable gloves while cleaning.
 - ⇒ If handling bleach or other disinfectant solutions, protective eyewear should be worn to avoid eye splashes.
 - ⇒ Perform hand hygiene after removing disposable gloves on completion of cleaning tasks