



# COVID-19

## Cleaning & Disinfection

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**CLEANING** is the removal of germs and dirt from surfaces. **Cleaning does not kill germs** but removes them, and lowers the number of germs and the risk of spreading infection.

**DISINFECTING** refers to using chemicals to kill germs. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but killing germs on a surface after cleaning, can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

**HIGH-TOUCH SURFACES:** Individuals, businesses, and care and health facilities should frequently clean “high-touch” surfaces like tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc., with EPA-registered, surface-safe disinfectants. Always follow label instructions.



### Clean and Disinfect

#### SURFACES

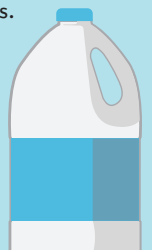
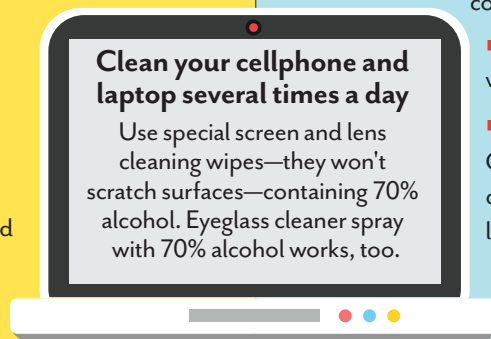
- When cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, wear disposable gloves. Gloves should be thrown away after each cleaning. If you prefer reusable gloves, reserve a pair that you'll use only for COVID-19 cleaning. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean using a detergent or soap and water before disinfecting.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
- Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if safe for surfaces. Follow label instructions for application and ventilation. Check that the product is not past its expiration date.
- Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against corona viruses when properly diluted.
- For soft or porous surfaces—carpeting, throw rugs and drapes—clean visible contamination, and then disinfect with surface-safe cleaners.

#### CLOTHING, TOWELS, LINENS AND OTHER ITEMS THAT GO IN THE LAUNDRY

- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick. Throw out gloves after each use. If you prefer reusable gloves, reserve a pair that you'll use only for handling laundry that may have traces of COVID-19. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
- Be sure to wash hands afterwards if you aren't wearing gloves when handling laundry.
- Do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Launder items using the warmest water setting possible and dry items completely. Follow label instructions.
- Dirty laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people's items.
- Clean and disinfect clothes hampers. Consider lining hampers with disposable bag liners or washable liners.

#### Clean your cellphone and laptop several times a day

Use special screen and lens cleaning wipes—they won't scratch surfaces—containing 70% alcohol. Eyeglass cleaner spray with 70% alcohol works, too.



### Use EPA -Registered Products that Fight COVID-19

**Individual products may be marketed and sold under a variety of names.** If you're looking for additional information about a product, refer to the EPA Registration Number (EPA Reg. No.) found on the product label, not the brand name.



Visit [tinyurl.com/tmo4xgf](https://tinyurl.com/tmo4xgf) or scan the code for a list of EPA-registered cleaners and disinfectants for medical care facilities, businesses and homes.