

COVID-19: Cleaning and Disinfecting Washrooms Used by the Public

This document provides guidance on cleaning and disinfecting washrooms that are used by the public and/or multiple members of a workplace. The general concepts can be applied to surfaces in other types of rooms.

What you should know

- Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19.
- Ensure the disinfectant you use has an 8-digit Drug Identification Number (DIN), indicating the product is approved by Health Canada for use in Canada.
- Surfaces frequently touched by hands are most likely to be contaminated. These commonly touched surfaces include doorknobs, light switches, sink faucets, countertops, toilet flush handles, accessibility handle bars, hand dryer buttons, and paper towel dispensers.
- Early research suggests the COVID-19 virus can live on some surfaces from a few hours to days.
- Cleaning and disinfecting are 2 essential steps to reduce the spread of infection.
 - » **Cleaning:** removal of visible soiling (e.g., dirt, grime, etc.) using water, detergents, and cleaning cloth. Does not kill germs (e.g., viruses, bacteria), but helps remove them from surfaces.
 - » **Disinfecting:** using chemicals to kill germs (e.g., viruses, bacteria) on surfaces. Most effective after surfaces have been cleaned of visible soiling.

Create or review a cleaning procedure

- Washrooms should be monitored closely and cleaned as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.
- Commonly touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least once every 2 hours.
- Remove items that cannot be easily cleaned.
- Follow manufacturers' safety instructions when using cleaners or disinfectants.
- Ensure proper training for employees regarding handling cleaners and disinfectants. Follow directions for safe use on product labels.
- Have Safety Data Sheets available and bottles and containers properly labeled.
- Wear gloves, and any other personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended by the product's manufacturer, when handling cleaning and disinfecting products. After removing gloves, wash hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Soiled cleaning items should be placed in a garbage bag before final disposal. Multi-use cleaning items should be washed between uses using laundry soap and hot water.

Prevention

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face (e.g., nose, mouth, eyes, etc.) with unwashed hands.
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres (6 feet).
- Practice respiratory etiquette by covering your coughs and sneezes.