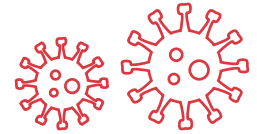


COVID-19: CLEANING AND DISINFECTING YOUR FACILITY – WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU RE-OPEN YOUR BUSINESS.



RE-OPENING PLANS

Elements Include:

- Clean and disinfect surfaces
- Provide disinfecting wipes and trash receptacles
- Facilitate social distancing
- Promote guidance for employees to use cloth face masks or other respiratory protection

Before re-opening your business it is important for you to follow prudent common sense procedures to ensure a safe workplace and inspire confidence in customers or visitors that you have taken appropriate measures to keep them safe.

Fortunately the viruses do not survive more than a week or so on surfaces so that will help. You will want to perform a deep cleaning of your premises which can remove dirt and reduce the number of microorganisms, followed by disinfection steps that can kill remaining viable bacteria and viruses. The CDC recommends cleaning surfaces before taking disinfection measures. Soap and water or commercial detergents can be used. Disinfection is the killing of germs on surfaces using chemicals, e.g., EPA-registered disinfectants or chemicals known to kill germs.

The CDC recommends regular cleaning, especially surfaces that are frequently touched such as light switches, door knobs and handles, desks, toilets, faucets and electronics. Cleaning should be performed prior to disinfection.

Product Selection

There are many options that can be used including ready to use liquids, concentrates that need to be diluted, germicidal sprays and wipes. Your choice will be determined by the types of surfaces that you have. For frequently touched surfaces such as computers, cash registers, credit and bank card processing machines disposable wipes may be your best option. For non-porous floors, mopping may be the best option. For non-porous walls using a sponge or an aerosol spray may be a good choice.

Regardless of your choices, be sure to read and follow the directions and heed any product warnings or application information carefully. Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves or eye protection may be needed. Prior to selecting the product, we suggest you obtain and review Safety Data Sheets (SDS) which provide additional health and safety information.

For sanitizing and disinfection products you can refer to the U.S. EPA website listing disinfectants for use against COVID-19.¹ Products claiming to be effective against COVID-19 can be found toward the end of the list which as of this writing is being updated frequently. The list provides information such as active ingredients, formulation type (ready to use, concentrate with dilution needed, wipes) and contact time needed to be effective. Be sure to contact the manufacturer if you have any questions about the suitability of their products for your situation.

CDC Resources

The CDC has websites dedicated to cleaning and disinfection for business facilities, community facilities and households, which may be applicable to businesses as they re-open or resume normal operations.^{2,3,4} OSHA also has helpful information about preparing your business for COVID-19.⁵ Links for these websites are provided in the footnotes and reference section below.

Product Usage

Use these products only as intended by the manufacturer. Different types of surfaces need different types of products. Be sure to read product labels and instructions, follow the directions for applications and use. Use in the proper concentrations if mixing or dilution is required. Pay special attention not to mix the product with other chemicals that they are incompatible with as listed on the labeling. Refer to the manufacturer's directions as to how long the product must remain in contact with a surface to be effective. Observe precautions and personal protective equipment requirements needed to use them safely and effectively. In addition to product labeling you should obtain and review Safety Data Sheets (SDS) from the manufacturer or distributor.

Professional cleaning services can provide guidance about the best methods to use and be engaged to perform the cleaning.

Exposures to Cleaners and Disinfectants

The CDC and others have reported cases of people becoming ill and requiring hospital visits after misusing products both at home and work.

Poison control centers across the country have seen a marked increase in calls since the start of the pandemic. Symptoms have included asthma, respiratory distress, dizziness and loss of consciousness. Causes include mixing incompatible chemicals, inadequate dilution of concentrates, using hot water when cold or

room temperature water was called for during dilution, accidental ingestion, etc.⁶ Remember to use the same caution when cleaning and sanitizing at home and to store chemicals so that children can't get at them.

Footnotes

1. List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2, Products with Emerging Viral Pathogens AND Human Coronavirus claims for use against SARS-CoV-2, US EPA www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2
2. Cleaning and Disinfection for Households, CDC www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html
3. Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities, CDC www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html
4. Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility, CDC www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html
5. Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, OSHA publication No. 3990-03, 2020 www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf
6. Cleaning and Disinfectant Chemical Exposures and Temporal Associations with COVID-19 — National Poison Data System, United States, January 1, 2020–March 31, 2020, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly, CDC, April 23, 2020 www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6916e1.htm?s_cid=mm6916a1_e&deliveryName=USCDC_921-DM26466

Other References

1. Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), CDC www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-business-response.html
2. Coronavirus (COVID-10) Main Page, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

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