

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

# Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings

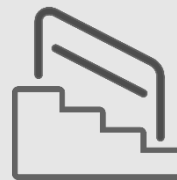
**This document provides guidance on cleaning and disinfection of public settings, including schools, transit, colleges/universities and other workplaces. For more information, please contact your local public health unit.**

## What you should know

- Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19.
- Frequently touched surfaces are most likely to be contaminated.
- Use only disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN). A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada.
- Check the expiry date of products you use and always follow manufacturer's instructions.

## Clean frequently touched surfaces twice per day

- In addition to routine cleaning, surfaces that have frequent contact with hands should be cleaned and disinfected twice per day and when visibly dirty.
- Examples include doorknobs, elevator buttons, light switches, toilet handles, counters, hand rails, touch screen surfaces and keypads.
- In addition to routine cleaning, check with your organization for any specific protocols for cleaning for COVID-19.



## Select products

### Cleaners

- Break down grease and remove organic material from the surface.
- Used separately before using disinfectants.
- Can be purchased with cleaner and disinfectant combined in a single product.

### Disinfectants

- Have chemicals that kill most germs.
- Applied after the surfaces have been cleaned.
- Have a drug identification number (DIN).

### Disinfectant Wipes

- Have combined cleaners and disinfectants in one solution.
- May become dry due to fast drying properties. Should be discarded if they become dry.
- Not recommended for heavily soiled surfaces.

## Prepare products for use

- Where possible, use pre-mixed solution.
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions to:
  - properly prepare solution
  - allow adequate contact time for disinfectant to kill germs (see product label)
  - wear gloves when handling cleaning products including wipes
  - wear any other personal protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer

## Learn about COVID-19

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. It spreads by respiratory droplets of an infected person to others with whom they have close contact such as people who live in the same household or provide care. It can survive on different surfaces but can be killed by most cleaners and disinfectants.

You can also access up to date information on COVID-19 on the Government of Nova Scotia's website: [novascotia.ca/coronavirus](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus).

## Sources:

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for environmental cleaning for prevention and control of infections in all health care settings [Internet]. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf>

The Regional Municipality of York, Community and Health Services. Proper cleaning and disinfection practices [Internet]. Newmarket, ON: The Regional Municipality of York; 2019. Available from: <https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/928899a2-d56b-47af-a9a0-b6e62d8e0bb7/Proper+Cleaning+and+Disinfection+Practices.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mVMtoGe>

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