CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Best Practices During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Good Idea

Follow CDC, State, and Local Public Health Guidelines

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 is mainly spread through the air. The risk of getting the virus by touching a contaminated surface is thought to be low.



Clean Surfaces with Soap and Water

Normal routine cleaning with soap and water lowers the risk of spreading COVID-19 by removing germs and dirt from surfaces. In most situations, cleaning is enough to reduce risk.



Use EPA-Registered Disinfectants According to Label Directions

Disinfectants further lower the risk of spreading COVID-19 by using chemicals to kill germs. Use disinfectants on high-touch surfaces when you know or suspect someone around you is sick with COVID-19.

Be Careful

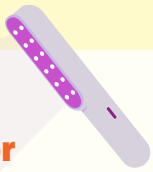
Be Careful Using Disinfectants Around People with Asthma

Disinfectants can trigger an asthma attack. If you have asthma, you may need to take extra precautions like avoiding areas where people are cleaning and disinfecting or making sure the space is well ventilated.



Be Careful with Fogging, Fumigating, and Wide-Area or Electrostatic Spraying

Make sure your product's label includes directions for the application method. Follow all directions, including precautions. If a product isn't labeled for these application methods, using it that way might be risky or ineffective.



Be Careful With UV Lights or Ozone Generators

UV lights or ozone generators may be risky or ineffective. EPA cannot verify if or when it is appropriate to use these devices. Check out the guidance at: go.usa.gov/xHckJ

Don't Do It

Don't Ask Children or Students to Apply Disinfectants



Disinfectants are powerful tools for controlling the spread of disease, and they can harm kid's health if used or stored incorrectly. Children and students should not apply disinfectants, and they should be kept out of children's reach.



Don't Ignore the Label Directions

If you don't follow the label directions, disinfectant products may be ineffective or unsafe. Do not apply disinfectants to skin, pets or food. Do not dilute disinfectants or mix them with other chemicals unless the label tells you to. Don't think that twice the amount will do twice the job.



Don't Use Unregistered Disinfectants

If a product says that it kills SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), but it doesn't have an EPA registration number, it may not be safe or effective. Federal law requires disinfectants to be registered with EPA.

