



CLEANING FOR COVID

As recommended by the CDC for cleaning and disinfecting businesses, any surface that a sick person came into contact with should be cleaned and disinfected.

Cleaning and disinfecting are not the same thing:

Cleaning means removing germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces, for example cleaning visibly dirty surfaces. This does not kill germs, but it reduces the number of them on surfaces.

Sanitizing is the reduction, not killing, of organisms on a surface.

Disinfecting means “killing” the microscopic organisms on a surface. Normally, this is done using Environmental Protection Agency registered chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process is done after cleaning and can further lower the risk of spreading infection. Disinfection agents may be applied to surfaces using misting/fogging, spray/wipe, or electrostatic approaches.

- **Misters and fogging systems** deliver very small droplets that passively deposit on surfaces based on the direction of spray and the effect of gravity, which may result in uneven coverage.
- **Spray/wipe methods** are often time consuming, labor intensive, and provide the least consistent coverage.
- **Electrostatic methods** deliver charged droplets that are actively attracted to surfaces, including the under and back sides and crevices of surfaces regardless of the direction of spray for complete wrap-around disinfection coverage.

General cleaning and disinfection practices include the following:

1. **Normal routine cleaning** with soap and water will decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure.
2. **Disinfection** using EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 can also help reduce the risk. Frequent disinfection of surfaces and objects touched by multiple people is important.
3. When EPA-approved are not approved disinfectants are not available, alternative disinfectants can be used (for example, 1/3 cup bleach added to 1 gallon water, or 70% alcohol solutions). Do not mix bleach or other cleaning and disinfection products together. This can cause fumes that may be very dangerous to breathe in. Bleach solutions will be effective for disinfection up to 24 hours. Follow guidelines to use bleach solutions safely and effectively.

More about electrostatic disinfection - Electrostatic spray surface cleaning is the process of spraying an electrostatically charged mist onto surfaces and objects. Electrostatic spray uses a specialized solution that is combined with air and atomized by an electrode inside the sprayer. Subsequently, the spray contains positively charged particles that are able to aggressively adhere to surfaces and objects.

Electrostatic spray gives objects an even, 360-degree coating made possible by the negative charge of the sprayed solution as it exits the tool's nozzle and the positive charge of the surfaces it reaches. It effectively atomizes cleaning solutions in this way, using electrostatics to attach and to wrap around harmful micro-organisms and remove them from surfaces, including those that are difficult to reach.

Application is done when no one is present in the space and building occupants are typically asked to wait one to two hours after treatment before entering the area. However, once the application is complete and dry, the space is safe for both people and animals. NOTE: Some cleaning companies promote that it is possible to return to the space safely immediately after application.