

CLEANING, SANITIZING AND DISINFECTING

Know the Difference

Cleaning removes dust, debris and dirt from a surface by scrubbing, washing and rinsing.

Sanitizing reduces the bacteria identified on the product's label on surfaces and in laundry.

Disinfecting destroys or inactivates both the bacteria and viruses identified on the product's label (like influenza and rhinovirus) on hard, nonporous surfaces. It is important to note that some disinfectants require a dwell time. Be sure to check the label.

Why Disinfection Is Important

Remember that you should disinfect – **not sanitize** – because disinfectants are the only products approved by the EPA to kill viruses on hard surfaces. The main difference is that EPA-approved sanitizers only have claims for bacteria, while disinfectants have claims against both bacteria and viruses.

When to Disinfect

If COVID-19 has been confirmed at your office or shows symptoms, send them home, then disinfect all surfaces in any areas they may have entered.

Select a Disinfectant That Can Be Effectively Used Against COVID-19

To make sure your product is an EPA-approved disinfectant, look on the label for an EPA registration number on the back panel. You can confirm a product can be used against COVID-19 by visiting [the EPA's site](https://www.epa.gov/covid19).

This information includes insights and facts from Clorox, their epidemiologists and in-house scientists.

The information that follows represents our current practices based on what we know about the current pandemic and these unprecedented circumstances. | **Disclaimer:** Regulations and guidance from the U.S. CDC are evolving rapidly. Please refer to the latest guidance from CDC to confirm current rules. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>