

Practical guide to surface cleaning and disinfection

Regular **cleaning and disinfection** of surfaces that are frequently handled is a sensible measure to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus and the infection risk pertaining to it.

1. Surface cleaning

Before disinfecting a surface, it is recommended to clean it first.

Cleaning implies the removal of germs, dirt and other visible impurities from the surfaces. Germs are not destroyed in so doing but their number decreases after proper cleaning, thereby potentially lowering the infection risks.

Any commercially available detergent may be used to clean soiled working surfaces, floors, walls, door knobs, handles, taps When doing so, follow the directions below:

- Always carefully read the **label** and the attached **user notice**.
- Strictly observe the **conditions of use** and the recommended **doses**.
- Use rubber **gloves** and **eye protection**.
- **Avoid** using **various detergents** together.
- Always use **tepid water** instead of hot water to dilute the detergent.
- Ensure that there is **sufficient ventilation** when cleaning.
- **Rinse the surfaces** after cleaning and wipe them **dry** with a clean cloth.
- In the event of **accidents**, thoroughly rinse the skin or eyes with water and immediately seek help from a **physician** and the **antipoison centre**.

2. Surface disinfection

Disinfection means the destruction of harmful organisms using disinfectants that contain active substances, also known under the generic name "biocides".

Cleaning solely is often not enough to keep the infection risk sufficiently low. In such cases, one may want to proceed to disinfecting after cleaning. Indeed, surface disinfectants are most effective when applied on surfaces that have been cleaned beforehand; in so doing, the infection risk is further lowered.

In addition to the directions mentioned under section 1, follow the directions below as well:



federal public service

**HEALTH, FOOD CHAIN SAFETY
AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Directorate-General Environment
Biocides Department**
Eurostation II
Victor Hortaplein 40 box 10
B-1060 BRUSSELS

- Use **only authorised disinfectants**. Indeed, authorised biocidal products have been subjected to an efficacy test and their risks for the end users have been evaluated thoroughly.

Via our **website** you can consult the lists of disinfectants authorized in Belgium:

- The [list of temporary authorisations](#) in the context of the fight against the coronavirus
 - The [general list of biocidal products authorised](#) in Belgium
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- Observe the **contact time** for an optimal disinfection: it is always mentioned on the label and the user notice of the disinfectant. Alternatively, allow the disinfectant to soak on the surface **for at least 5 minutes**.
 - **Thoroughly rinse** the surfaces, especially when they come into contact with **food**. Check the user notice.
 - Do not use disinfectants beyond their **expiry date**.
 - **Do not spray** detergents or disinfectants directly on **electronic devices**.
 - You ought to apply the product on a **clean, dry sponge or cloth** and wipe the **electronic devices** clean with this.