



INFECTION PREVENTION

Infection prevention and control (IPC) in your home is a set of practices that help to protect you and your family from getting sick and spreading illnesses and infectious diseases. These practices include maintaining good hygiene, cleaning, disinfecting surfaces, and social distancing.

General cleaning in your home is an essential aspect of IPC. Maintaining safe cleaning habits helps remove most germs on household surfaces.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES



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GENERAL CLEANING IN YOUR HOME





BEFORE USING HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS...

- » Read the directions for use
- » Know the “contact time” of the product, which is the amount of time required for the surface to stay wet with the product so it will kill germs
- » Make sure you have the appropriate protective wear to safely use the product

TIPS FOR A THOROUGH CLEAN

- » Proceed from cleaner to dirtier areas
- » Proceed from top to bottom
- » Proceed in a systematic manner
- » Clean “healthy” areas before “sick” areas
- » Follow all manufacturer instructions
- » Report accidental exposures to poison control



“HIGH TOUCH SURFACES” NEED TO BE CLEANED FREQUENTLY

- » These are surfaces that are most likely to be touched frequently and pose the highest risk for transmission of germs
- » Examples include doorknobs, light switches, nightstands, remote controls, banisters, and handles on sinks, toilets, refrigerators, freezers, and ovens

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON CLEANING AGENT AND DISINFECTANT LABELS



- » Active Ingredients
- » Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Registration Number
- » Signal Words (Caution, Warning, Danger)
- » Directions for Use
- » Where, How and on What Surfaces to Use
- » What Germs are Killed
- » Contact Time
- » Precautionary Statements
- » First Aid/ Accidental Exposure
- » Safe Storage and Disposal

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ...

CLEANING

- » Removes dirt you can see, so a disinfectant is able to get to the germs you can't see
- » Uses detergents that lift dirt away from surfaces
- » May reduce the number of germs left behind but doesn't always kill them

DISINFECTING

- » Kills most germs on surfaces/objects after cleaning with the use of a chemical-based disinfectant
- » Is one of the most reliable ways to lower risk of spreading germs from contaminated surfaces

DID YOU KNOW?

You can clean a surface/object without disinfecting it, but you **CANNOT** disinfect a surface/object without cleaning it first.

