COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE HUMAN RESOURCES SAFETY DIVISION

Safety Newsletter

RC 1HR safety division

May 2020

CLEANING vs. DISINFECTING IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

vs.

It's easy to get overwhelmed with all of the information, so we put together this simple guideline to help you safely clean and disinfect your office spaces.

What's the difference between cleaning and disinfecting?

It's important to note that cleaning a surface, such as removing dirt and particles, is not the same thing as disinfecting a surface that kills viruses and bacteria.

Often, you need to clean a surface with soap and water or other cleaning solution **before** you can effectively disinfect the surface.

For example, if you bake cookies and your kitchen counter are covered in flour, sugar, egg, and other ingredients from your baking adventure, you will want to wipe down the surface with a soapy solution to remove the visible dirt. Then you can use a bleach solution or equivalent agent on the non-porous countertop to disinfect the area from any lingering germs left behind.

The same goes for any surface that may have been in contact with someone who was ill. You will want to wear gloves to clean away any dirt on the surface then use a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended disinfectant to decontaminate the area.

KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR A CLOTH MASK?

SEE PAGE 6

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CLEANING vs. DISINFECTING

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What's a disinfectant product?

There are many products you can use to superficially clean hard surfaces, such as warm, soapy water, vinegar water solution sprays, or even essential oil solution sprays. However, those products have NOT been scientifically proven to effectively **disinfect** a surface from contaminants such as the coronavirus, influenza, norovirus, ect.

It's essential to pay attention to the active ingredients in your cleaning products. Below are common active ingredients found in the CDC and EPA recommended **disinfectant** cleaning products that can kill many viruses and bacteria:

- *Ethanol alcohol (60%-90%)**
- *Hydrogen peroxide*
- *Isopropyl alcohol (60%-90%)*
- *Quaternary Ammonium*
- *Sodium hypochlorite*

The above is NOT an inclusive list, but it can help guide you as you look for products. You can view the all-inclusive list on the EPA's website.

**Note: alcohol for human consumption is not an effective disinfectant*

How do I properly clean clothing, sheets, and more?

The CDC recommends washing clothing, towels, bedding, and more with laundry detergent at the highest heat recommended by the product manufacturer. There are no specific products needed to clean cloth other than detergent and a washing machine.

However, if you are washing the clothing, towels, and bedding of an ill person, it's recommended that you wear disposable gloves while handling the pre-washed materials and then dispose of the gloves and wash your hands with soap and water.

Top areas of the home to disinfect

Because home life can be carried into the workplace, it's important to disinfect your home and to regularly launder your bedding, towels, and clothing to help prevent the spread of diseases.

Key areas you come into contact with numerous times a day should be regularly disinfected these include but are not limited to:

- Doorknobs
- Light switches
- Remote controls
- Phones
- Keyboards
- Backs of chairs

CLEANING vs. DISINFECTING

Do I need to follow the directions?

Following the directions listed on the cleaning product or outlined by the CDC is critical to successfully disinfect an area. If you do not follow the directions carefully, especially when mixing the ingredient quantities and waiting for the solution to work, you may not disinfect the area.

Adding more of an ingredient or product than recommended can damage surfaces or have other negative consequences and should be avoided. Always follow recommended safety protocols such as wearing gloves and avoiding contact with your eyes. You can hurt yourself or others if you do not follow the directions and safety protocols.

Do products expire, and how do I store them?

Many ingredients found in disinfectant cleaning products expire and degrade over time, especially if they are improperly stored. Before using any disinfectant or making a disinfectant solution, make sure the ingredients have not expired by checking for an expiration date and/or reading the label to see if the manufacture included "best used by" information on the label.

Before you store any cleaning product, read the label to ensure you're storing it in the recommended condition, this will include providing the optimal room temperature and typically requires a product to avoid exposure to direct sunlight.

A word of caution

Mixing cleaning product ingredients is dangerous and can produce hazardous reactions and/or toxic gases. Cleaning product ingredients should never be mixed unless recommended by the manufacturer or the CDC.

Below is a list of everyday cleaning products that when mixed, **can cause dangerous reactions and/or toxic gases**:

- ***Bleach and Vinegar***
- ***Bleach and Ammonia***
- ***Bleach and Toilet Bowl Cleaner***
- ***Bleach and Rubbing Alcohol***
- ***Hydrogen Peroxide and Vinegar***

Again, this is NOT inclusive, so be sure to follow the manufacturer's or CDC's recommendations before combining any chemical cleaning ingredient or product.

The good news!

Properly disinfecting our office spaces and commonly touched objects helps prevent the spread of all contagious diseases, including COVID-19. By implementing these best practices into our daily routines, we can build habits that won't just help lessen the outbreak today, but can help reduce the spread of other seasonal diseases as we look to the future.

ACCIDENTAL ROAD FLARE IGNITION

In January of 2019, the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control's Investigation Branch investigated a fire that originated within the cargo area of a law enforcement vehicle. The investigation concluded that road flares, stored within that area, were ignited the result of inadvertent contact between the striker (red phosphorous) and ignition button of separate flares. Those flares had been stored within an installed tray.

Further research identified similar incidents dating back to 1999, where other law enforcement vehicles experienced similar occurrences, fires in the cargo area due to incidental contact between the striker and ignition button of road flares. A 2013 study found that, during driving conditions, unsecured road flares stored inside the cargo compartments have free movement which can cause plastic cap and removable lid to fall off, exposing both the ignition button and striker. In those circumstances, and with little force or contact pressure the flares can readily ignite.

Such incidents may occur where flares are stored in any type of County vehicle. To minimize the probability of encountering an inadvertent flare ignition, it is recommended that County departments and their personnel consider the following:

When storing flares in a vehicle:

- Store flares, with plastic cap and removable lid in place, in the original cardboard box or a container that has a secure lid
- Avoid storing flares oriented so that the ignition button and striker ends could face each other
- If using an storage tray, place the flares in a compartment separate from any other items
- If that compartment is longer than the flare, place material (i.e. cardboard or wood) in the extra space to prevent movement of the flares

Regularly inspect flare storage compartments:

- Ensure all flares have a plastic cap secured over the ignition button and the removable lid in place over the striker
    - Clean any flare residue from compartment or containers

Additional considerations:

- Discard all used flare components! Do not place extinguished flare bodies, used striker caps, or wire stands in a vehicle with stored flares
- Follow MSDS safety precautions regarding handling, storage and disposal of flares:
    - ***Store in a dry place away from sunlight, heat and incompatible materials***
    - ***Store away from flammable materials, sources of heat, flame, and sparks***
    - ***Flares should be allowed to burn to completion. Do NOT store partially burned flares in vehicles***
    - ***Burning is the preferred method of disposal; product is considered inert after ignition***
    - ***If quantities are too large to destroy, consult the manufacturer or distributor***

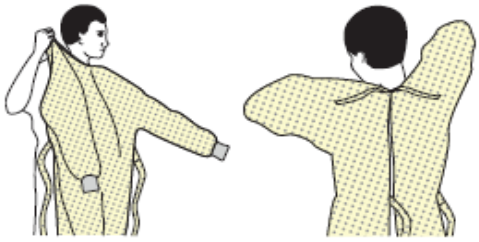
- Do not store flares near the radio or other electrical connections.
- Create an agency policy for storing road flares inside emergency vehicles.

SEQUENCE FOR PUTTING ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The type of PPE used will vary based on the level of precautions required, such as standard and contact, droplet or airborne infection isolation precautions. The procedure for putting on and removing PPE should be tailored to the specific type of PPE.

1. GOWN

- Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back
- Fasten in back of neck and waist



2. MASK OR RESPIRATOR

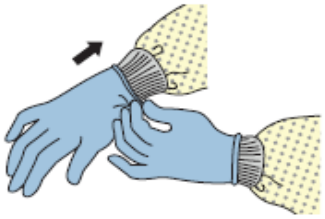
- Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck
- Fit flexible band to nose bridge
- Fit snug to face and below chin
- Fit-check respirator

3. GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD

- Place over face and eyes and adjust to fit

4. GLOVES

- Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown



USE SAFE WORK PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CONTAMINATION

- Keep hands away from face
- Limit surfaces touched
- Change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated
- Perform hand hygiene

CDC

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HOW TO WEAR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

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How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

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