

Interim Recommendations for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

This guidance provides recommendations on the cleaning and disinfection of households where persons under investigation (PUI) or those with confirmed COVID-19 reside or may be in self-isolation. It is aimed at limiting the survival of the virus in the environments. These recommendations will be updated if additional information becomes available. These guidelines are focused on household settings and are meant for the general public.

CLEANING refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

DISINFECTION refers to using chemicals, for example, EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surface or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection. Disinfection is less lethal than sterilization because it destroys MOST recognized pathogenic microorganisms but not necessarily all microbial forms (e.g., bacterial spores).

STERILIZATION refers to the validated process used to render a product FREE OF ALL forms of viable microorganisms. In a sterilization process, the presence of microorganisms on any individual item can be expressed in terms of probability. Although this probability can be reduced to a very low number, it can never be reduced to zero.

HOW TO CLEAN AND DISINFECT HARD (NON-POROUS) SURFACES

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves should be discarded after each cleaning. If reusable gloves are used, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other purposes. Consult the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfection products used. **Clean hands** immediately after gloves are removed.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
 - For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. Visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2> to find the current list of products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19. Follow manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products for (concentration, application method and contact time, etc..
 - Additionally, diluted household bleach solutions (at least 1000ppm sodium hypochlorite) can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions* for application, ensuring a contact time of at least 1 minute, and allowing proper ventilation during and after application. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
 - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
 - 5 tablespoons (one-third cup) bleach per gallon of water or,
 - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

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*Wilsonart has tested and supports the CDC's recommended bleach solution for use on Wilsonart® HPL, Solid Surface and Quartz. Always rinse thoroughly with warm water and soap after appropriate use of diluted bleach solution. Exposure (contact or kill time) should **NOT** exceed 2-minutes due to the effects on the surface from over-exposure, and possible degradation of the surface. Etching and surface degradation was observed slightly on various diluted solutions using hypochlorite based products.

Please refer to Wilsonart's **Surface Maintenance Guidelines: Cleaners & Disinfectants** document for additional information.