

CLEANING

WASH, WIPE, COVER...

don't infect another!

Questions & Answers



Why is cleaning so important in preventing infection?

We know that equipment, items and surfaces can become contaminated with harmful bacteria and viruses and these can survive for long enough to pose a risk of infection. Cleaning can prevent cross contamination and infection from these commonly touched items and surfaces.

What should I use for cleaning?

As a general rule thorough cleaning with a mild detergent and warm water is all that is required. Cleaning should include a mechanical action, ie wiping or scrubbing.

Are disinfectants better for cleaning?

No, as a general rule detergent and water is all that is required for general cleaning purposes.

What areas need cleaning the most?

Kitchen work surfaces and surfaces that are frequently touched by more than one person; such as handles, telephones, computer keyboards, children's toys etc.

How often should I clean?

This varies depending on circumstances, such as the number of occupants and how much use the area gets. If there is anyone who is sick with a respiratory or gastrointestinal infection, or who is susceptible to infection, cleaning should be more frequent. In general you should aim to clear up spills of body fluids immediately, keep food preparation areas clean and ensure all frequently touched surfaces are wiped down on a daily basis. Other areas should be cleaned regularly to ensure they are visibly clean and free of dust and dirt.

How should cleaning cloths and mops be stored?

Cloths, mops, and other cleaning equipment should be washed after use and allowed to dry. Avoid leaving cleaning equipment in wet or damp conditions (ie soaking in buckets of water) as this will encourage the growth of potentially dangerous germs, which can then be spread to other objects or surfaces. Items used to clean after preparing raw food, spills of blood or body fluids, or toilet areas, should be washed immediately.

What about microfibre cloths?

Microfibre cloths are made from a highly absorbent material that attracts dust particles. They can be used dry for dusting, or moistened with water for general cleaning. They still need to be washed and dried regularly between uses. These types of products appear to be suitable for home use provided they are used as directed by the manufacturer. Currently they are not recommended for use in clinical/ward environments of health care facilities.

REMEMBER "WASH, WIPE, COVER – DON'T INFECT ANOTHER!"