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## Cleaning Guidance for Rental Properties

This document provides guidance on cleaning and disinfecting of properties that house guests temporarily, such as short-term rentals, hotel rooms, ect. It is vital that proper procedures are followed to ensure the protection against COVID-19 for guests and employees.

### Cleaning vs. Disinfecting

- 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.
- Disinfecting refers to using chemicals, for example, EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface *after* cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Please visit the link below for a list of EPA registered cleaning products.

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

### Cleaning Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces

- 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. Additionally, unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
  - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
    - 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water or
    - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- It is crucial to disinfect highly touched areas such as knobs, light switches, handles, ect.

### Soft (Porous) Surfaces

- For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floors, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
  - If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely. Otherwise, use EPA-approved products suitable for that surface.

### Electronics

- Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.
- If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

### Linens, Clothing

- In order to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry.
- Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Clean

and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.

### **Safety of Cleaning Staff**

The risk of exposure to cleaning staff is inherently low. Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.

### **Additional Resources for Cleaning**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>