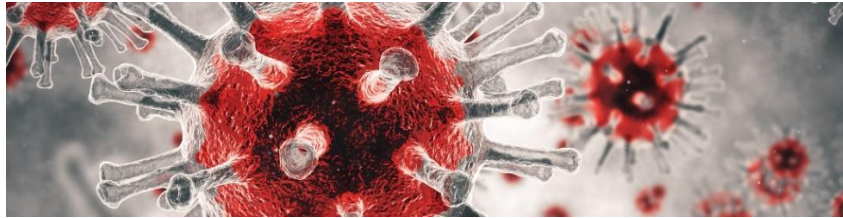


COVID-19 CLEANING



As we were all counting down to the new year and making our resolutions and plans, none of us could have imagined that 2020 would look like it does now. And while the picture for the coming months remains foggy, one thing is clear—while the physical, mental, and financial stress of a pandemic can bring out the worst in people—its actually appears to be having the opposite effect on most. Its uplifting to see and hear stories of people making scarifices and coming together and celebrating heroic and everyday efforts by everyday people just trying to help each other through this very difficult time.

Meanwhile, the essential work of refuse collection and disposal must continue in order to protect the health and well-being of our communities. To support that effort, we need to do all we can to protect those workers. There are a number of things we should be doing as employers and as employees. OSHA's *COVID-19 Control and Prevention* guidance provides great information, including hygiene recommendations, how to handle suspected cases, workplace cleaning and disinfecting, worker training, and personal protective equipment (PPE). For more details, go to <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html>. If mask use is part of your protocol, it is important to be sure your staff or co-workers are using them properly. There is a good video on YouTube for surgical masks, including what to do before you put them on, how to don them, keeping them clean, and how to doff and store them between wearings. For that video, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwPWdkbyizw>

Hopefully we have trained everyone and they are now practicing social distancing and washing their hands and not touching their faces and properly using their PPE and staying home if they are sick—so the next thing we can do work to keep our facilities and vehicles clean and safe for our employees to use. The CDC has posted a page on its website dedicated to cleaning and disinfecting facilities, with recommendations on how to clean or disinfect different surfaces, how to handle laundry, training cleaning staff, what to do if someone is sick, etc. For those recommendations, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Whether cleaning and disinfecting your workplace, your vehicle, or your home, its is critical that you ensure that the chemicals you are using meet EPA's criteria for use against the virus that causes COVID-19. To access EPA's *List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2*, go to: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. Please also remember to ensure you have safety data sheets for those chemicals and that cleaning staff are properly trained on how to use them.

While we continue to focus on COVID-19, it is also important that we keep talking about all the other work practices/behaviors that are critical to keeping our workers safe from the everyday hazards in our industry.

Please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected. Even apart, we are proving to be stronger together. We just have a new definition of together. -Dennis