

Coronavirus

Vehicle use and cleaning tips

March 2020

Corona Virus impacts

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious illness. Symptoms of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) can include fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath, and can take up to 14 days to develop.

Travel in GoA vehicles

Precautions

GOA fleet vehicles are considered a workplace and follow the same precautions being rolled out for workplaces.

- Do not use a GoA vehicle if you are experiencing any symptoms or have recently traveled outside the country.
- To maintain “social distancing” limit the number of passengers being transported.
- Roll down a window slightly to create a vacuum which will help circulate air from within the vehicle.
- Do not use the vehicle’s heater/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) air recirculation feature to ensure fresh air is being introduced to the passenger compartment.
- Check the manufacturer’s operators manual to confirm operation of the recirculation feature for your specific vehicle model.



Travel in GoA vehicles

Limit passengers or reduce travel where at all possible.

Practise good hygiene when using GoA vehicles.

Clean high touch surfaces in vehicles as often as possible.

Social Distancing

Social distancing or physical distancing is a set of non-pharmaceutical infection control actions intended to stop or slow down the spread of a contagious disease. Social distancing is being implemented by keeping a distance of at least 2 arms lengths (approximately 2 meters) from others. In vehicles it may not be possible to maintain the two-meter separation, for safety take the following precautions:

- Reduce all non-essential travel where possible.
- Reduce the need to transport any passengers.
- If required to carry passengers, ensure that you have hand sanitizer readily available and use the precautions for vehicle travel.

Cleaning of vehicles

Nothing will happen to your car, truck or SUV should the coronavirus get onboard. But if not properly cleaned, your vehicle could be a hotbed of coronavirus and other infections and germs. It is for this reason that we suggest using hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes to wipe down the interior of your car and any other area that could be considered a high-touch area. A good rule of thumb is to clean areas that you contact regularly and to sanitize your hands on an hourly basis.



Do:

- Alcohol with 70% or better concentration works best in your automobile or SUV's interior. It is the cleaner most used by manufacturers of most automotive interiors today. All it takes is a quick wipe to clean most germs and fingerprints. Soap and water will work as well.
- It is recommended to spend extra time on the steering wheel. The steering wheel is prone to germs and for this reason, it is recommended to use disinfect wipes to clean all the surfaces on the steering wheel.
- Include the redundant controls for radio, voice control, cruise control, navigation, and paddle shift levers.
- Don't forget about the gear selector lever or the turn indicator.
- Clean the door and center console armrests, display screens, cup holders, cubbyholes, air conditioner vents and even the door "grab handles." You touch them more than you realize and could carry coronavirus.
- Most vehicle leathers and imitation leathers have urethane coatings for protection, which is safe to clean with alcohol. Cleaning leather with alcohol can leave it susceptible to damage and discoloration over time.
- If the vehicle has fabric upholstery, do not clean it with too much water or too much

soap, if you soak through the fabric down to the cushion beneath it could end up creating a musty smell or encouraging mold growth in the cushions.

Do not:

- Under no circumstances should ammonia-based cleaning products be used. These can be found in "blue glass cleaners." The ammonia breaks down the vinyl on the dashboard, making it sticky when subjected to heat and light.
- To avoid damage to anti-glare coatings, glass cleaner should not be used on touch display screens.
- Do not use any type of bleach or hydrogen peroxide on the vehicle's interior. Both chemicals can eliminate the coronavirus, but they will also cause damage to the vinyl and plastics used in most modern vehicles today.



Cleaning Services

Depending on the nature of your business, you may wish to secure additional cleaning services. Many vendors are offering pick up and drop off services. Please reach out to your local detailing vendor or dealership for details. ARI suppliers can be located through their [supplier search tool](#).