

# CLEANING

AND

# DISINFECTING

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WHEN AND HOW TO CLEAN AND DISINFECT  
COMMON AREAS

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Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces

Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection



Disinfecting refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces

Disinfecting does not clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but can lower the risk of spreading infection by killing germs on a surface after cleaning

**Step 1:** Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting

**Step 2:** To clean, use a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection

**Step 3:** To disinfect, use diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA registered household disinfectants

**Step 4:** Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, and hard back chairs

