



Health & Safety Notes

Safe and Effective Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

What are cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting?

Sometimes these terms are used interchangeably, but they are not the same. They have different outcomes which the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines as follows:

- ▶ To clean means to physically remove dirt, debris and sticky film from the surface by scrubbing, washing, wiping and rinsing. You can clean with a mild soap or detergent and water.
- ▶ To sanitize means to apply a product that reduces germs to safer levels. Sanitizing surfaces destroys enough germs to reduce the risk of becoming ill from contact with those surfaces.
- ▶ To disinfect means to apply a product that destroys nearly all germs when applied to hard, nonporous surfaces. Disinfecting is a higher level of germ killing.

What should I sanitize?

Sanitizing is recommended for food surfaces (dishes, utensils, cutting boards, high chair trays) and other objects intended for the mouth like pacifiers and teething toys.

What should I disinfect?

Disinfecting is recommended for hard non-porous surfaces such as toilets, changing tables, and other bathroom surfaces; blood spills and other potentially infectious body fluids like vomit, urine and feces.

How do I know which product to use?

Sanitizing and disinfecting products are called antimicrobials. These products kill bacteria, viruses, fungi and mold on hard surfaces. The EPA sets standards for products to make sure that they kill germs and don't pose serious immediate health hazards to people.

All products used to sanitize or disinfect must be registered with the EPA. Only products with EPA registration numbers on the label can claim they kill germs if used as directed. Product labels have information about how to use it to sanitize or disinfect, and which germs are killed.

What about bleach?

Bleach is the most common product used for sanitizing and disinfecting in Early Care and Education (ECE) programs. If used correctly, bleach reliably sanitizes and disinfects hard, non-porous surfaces of most common and harmful bacteria and viruses. A small amount of bleach can be diluted with water and it is inexpensive.

Are there problems with bleach?

There are increasing concerns about the health effects of bleach, especially for children and staff with asthma. When bleach is applied to surfaces, fumes get into the air and can irritate the lungs, eyes and the inside of the nose. For staff who mix bleach solutions, contact with full strength bleach can be even more harmful and can damage skin, eyes and clothing.

SAFER WAYS TO DILUTE BLEACH

- ▶ USE ONLY EPA REGISTERED BLEACH and follow the directions on the label.
- ▶ Select a bottle made of opaque material.
- ▶ Dilute bleach with cool water and *do not use more than the recommended amount of bleach.*
- ▶ Make a fresh bleach solution daily; label the bottle with contents and the date mixed.
- ▶ Wear gloves and eye protection when diluting bleach.
- ▶ Use a funnel.
- ▶ Add bleach to the water rather than water to bleach to reduce fumes.
- ▶ Make sure the room is well ventilated.

Caution: *Always follow label instructions! Undiluted bleach comes in different concentrations (e.g. 8.25%, 6%, 5.25% sodium hypochlorite). Read the label for exact dilution instructions.*

Are there alternatives to bleach?

Commercial products registered with the EPA as sanitizers or disinfectants may be used according to the directions on the label. Look for an EPA registration number. Follow instructions for dilution (different for sanitizing vs. disinfecting) and contact time. Check if the product is safe for food surfaces, if pre-cleaning is needed, and if rinsing is needed.

Some child care programs are using EPA registered products with hydrogen peroxide, citric acid, alcohol, or lactic acid as the active ingredient because they have fewer irritating fumes. In response to consumer demand, more of these products can be found in stores and online.

Non-chemical equipment, like dishwashers and steam cleaners, can be used to sanitize in certain situations. New methods and technologies like high-quality microfiber cloths and mops used with soap and water can also reduce germs. More studies need to be done to see if these alternative methods work as well as chemicals to sanitize in ECE environments.

Resources and References:

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. CFOC Standards Online Database. Aurora, CO; National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education; <http://nrckids.org> Accessed 3/14/2019. Appendix J and K

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, What are Antimicrobial Pesticides? <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/what-are-antimicrobial-pesticides#nph>

SAFER USE OF BLEACH SOLUTIONS

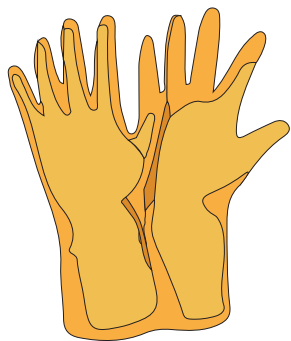
- ▶ Before applying bleach, clean off dirt and debris with soap or detergent, then rinse with water.
- ▶ If using a spray bottle, apply bleach using a heavy spray instead of a fine mist setting.
- ▶ Keep the surface wet with bleach according to label instructions (use a timer). This is called contact time or dwell time.
- ▶ Sanitize when children are not present.
- ▶ Ventilate the room and allow surfaces to dry completely before allowing children back.
- ▶ Store all chemicals out of reach of children in a way that will not tip or spill.
- ▶ Never mix or store ammonia with bleach or products that contain bleach.

Step-by-Step Cleaning for Child Care Programs

Cleaning means to remove dirt, dust, debris, and sticky substances by washing, wiping, scrubbing, or mopping hard surfaces with soap or detergent and water. Routine cleaning of toys, floors, cribs, cots, mats, play equipment, refrigerators, counters, and shelves is recommended for child care settings.

STEP 1

Gloves may be worn to protect skin. Always follow product label directions for personal protective equipment like gloves.



STEP 2

Spray the cleaning solution onto the surface.



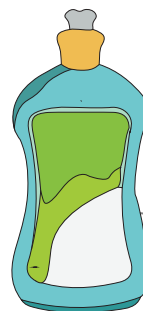
STEP 3

Wipe the surface with a single use paper towel, a microfiber cloth, or a mop.



STEP 4

Rinse according to product label directions.



DESCRIPTION

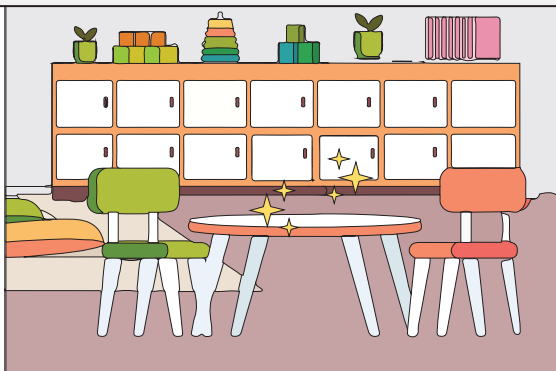
All-purpose cleaning product. Safe to use on counters, floors, sinks, and other hard surfaces.

HOW TO USE

- Spray product on surface and wipe clean.
- For stubborn messes, let sit for a few minutes before scrubbing clean.
- Rinse with water. Do not leave any product residue on surface.

STEP 5

Allow the surface to air dry, or dry with a fresh paper towel or microfiber cloth.



Important note:
Some cleaning products are ready-to-use and some are meant to be diluted with water.

Always follow product label directions!

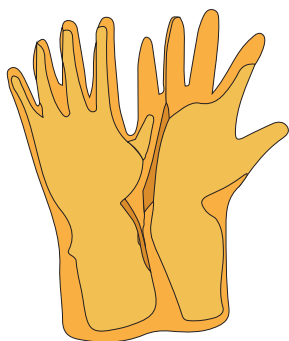
Step-by-Step

Sanitizing for Child Care Programs

Sanitizing means to kill germs at a level that reduces the risk of becoming ill from contact with germs on the surface. Sanitizing is used on food contact surfaces (dishes, utensils, cutting boards, high chair trays, tables), toys that children may place in their mouths, pacifiers, and mixed use tables. Choose an EPA registered sanitizer that is approved for use on food contact surfaces. **DO NOT USE SANITIZERS NEAR CHILDREN!**

STEP
1

Put on gloves.



STEP
2

Pre-clean the surface with soap and water. Surfaces should be clean before applying a disinfectant.



STEP
3

Apply the sanitizer. Spray away from people and provide ventilation.



STEP
4

Leave the surface wet for the appropriate contact (dwell) time stated on the product label. Set a timer to keep track of the time.



STEP
5

Allow the surface to air dry, or dry with a fresh paper towel or microfiber cloth.



Important note:
Some sanitizers are ready-to-use and some are meant to be diluted with water.

Always follow product label directions!

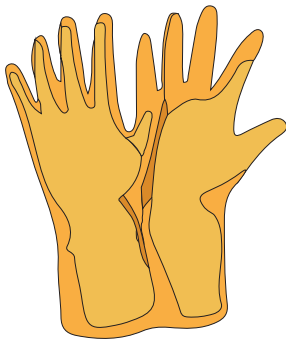
If sanitizing a food contact surface, you may need to rinse the surface with water after. Check the label. If required, use enough water to remove all of the sanitizer.

Step-by-Step Disinfecting for Child Care Programs

Disinfecting means to destroy almost all germs that could make a person sick. Disinfecting is for toileting areas and high-touch areas that collect lots of germs (bathroom faucets and counters, diaper changing tables, toilets, sinks used in toileting routines, drinking fountains, doorknobs). Choose an EPA registered disinfectant, and use the product according to the label directions. **DO NOT USE DISINFECTANTS NEAR CHILDREN!**

STEP
1

Put on gloves.



STEP
2

Pre-clean the surface with soap and water. Surfaces should be clean before applying a disinfectant.



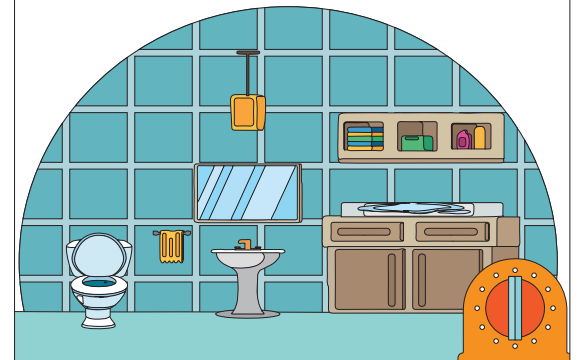
STEP
3

Apply the disinfectant. Spray away from people and provide ventilation.



STEP
4

Leave the surface wet for the appropriate contact (dwell) time stated on the product label. Set a timer to keep track of the time.



STEP
5

Allow the surface to air dry, or dry with a fresh paper towel or microfiber cloth.



Important note:
Some disinfectants are ready-to-use and some are meant to be diluted with water.

Always follow product label directions!

Title 22 Standards for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting at California Child Care Centers

This table shows areas in a child care center required to be cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected per California child care licensing regulations. If more stringent, “Best Practices” are included per Caring for Our Children (CFOC) National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Appendix K. The CFOC standards are not enforceable, and included only as a reference. Be sure to always follow child care licensing requirements.

For more information, contact the California Department of Pesticide Regulation’s Child Care IPM Program at cciplist@cdpr.ca.gov.

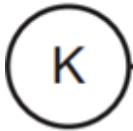
Area	Process	Frequency	Code	Best Practice*, if more stringent
Food Areas				
Food areas (kitchen, food preparation and storage areas, equipment)	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101227 (a)(18),(20)	Clean and Sanitize tables and food preparation surfaces before and after each use. Clean and Sanitize countertops and food preparation appliances daily.
Dishes and utensils	Clean and Sanitize	After use	Title 22 §101227(a)(21)	N/A
Toilet Areas				
Toilets	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101239(e)(4)	Clean and disinfect daily
Potty Chairs	Clean and Disinfect	After use	Title 22 §101428(e)(2)	N/A
Hand washing sinks and faucets, bathing facilities	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101239(e)(4)	Clean and disinfect daily
Floors	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101238(a) and 101238.3(b)	Clean and disinfect daily
Sleeping Areas				
Napping Equipment	Clean and Disinfect	Weekly if soiled	Title 22 §101239.1(b)(4)	N/A
Sheets	Clean	Weekly if soiled	Title 22 §101239.1(c)(3)	N/A
Blankets	Clean or Change	If soiled	Title 22 §101239.1(c)(4)	Clean monthly
General Areas				
Entire center	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101238(a)	N/A
Floors (non-infant)	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101238.3(b)	Clean daily
Door and cabinet handles	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101238(a)	Clean and disinfect daily
Drinking fountains	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101238(a)	Clean and disinfect daily
Computer keyboards	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101238(a)	Clean and sanitize after use. Use sanitizing wipes, do not spray.

*Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, [Appendix K http://cfoc.nrckids.org/](http://cfoc.nrckids.org/)

Title 22 Standards for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting at California Child Care Centers

INFANT-SPECIFIC CARE				
Area	Process	Frequency	Code	Best Practice*, if more stringent
Floors (not carpet)	Clean and Disinfect	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(1)	N/A
Carpeted floors and large rugs	Vaccum	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(2)	Clean monthly
	Clean	Every 6 months		
Small rugs	Vaccum or shack out	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(2)(A)	N/A
	Wash	Weekly		
Walls and partitions	Clean and Disinfect	Weekly	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(3)	N/A
Highchairs and feeding chairs	Clean and Disinfect	After use	Title 22 §101439(f)	N/A
Diaper changing table and pads	Clean and Disinfect	After use	Title 22 §101428(d)(7)	N/A
Diaper changing area (including walls, floors, dispensers, counter tops, sinks, drawers, and cabinets)	Clean and Disinfect	After use or if soiled	Title 22 §101428(d)(7)(B) and §101438.1(c)(4),(5)	N/A
Diaper pails	Clean and Sanitize	Daily	Title 22 §101428(d)(3)(A)	Clean and disinfect daily
Linens (center-provided)	Clean and Sanitize	Daily or if soiled	Title 22 §101438.1(e)	N/A
Crib mattresses	Clean and Disinfect	Daily and when soiled or wet	Title 22§101439.1 (b)(4)(B)	N/A
Mouthed objects	Clean and Disinfect	Daily or more often if necessary	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(1)	N/A

*Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, [Appendix K http://cfoc.nrckids.org/](http://cfoc.nrckids.org/)



Appendix K: Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

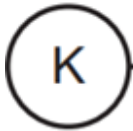
- Programs may need to sanitize, or disinfect surfaces more often during illness outbreaks and should refer to state, local, tribal, or territorial health authorities and child care licensing for more information.
- Reducing the risk of infection also involves proper ventilation and air filtration, as some infectious diseases (viruses) are spread through the air and not on surfaces.
- Regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs and prevent the spread of illness to others.

Surface/Area	Method			Timing				Comments
	Clean	Sanitize	Disinfect	Before Each Use	After Each Use	Daily (end of day)	Weekly	
Food Preparation and Meal Service Areas: Use an EPA-registered product that is safe for surfaces that touch food.								
Food preparation surfaces and countertops CFOC 4.9.0.9 ; 4.9.0.10	X	X		X	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a microfiber cloth or disposable paper towels. Do not use sponges.
Eating utensils and dishes CFOC 4.5.0.2 ; 4.9.0.11 ; 4.9.0.12 ; 4.9.0.13	X	X			X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash, rinse, and sanitize by hand <u>OR</u> Use dishwasher; set on sanitize setting.
Bottle feeding equipment CFOC 4.3.1.10	X	X			X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash, rinse, and sanitize by hand <u>OR</u> Use dishwasher; set on sanitize setting. Squeeze water through nipple hole to be sure it is clean.
Highchair trays CFOC 4.5.0.2 ; 9.2.3.12	X	X		X	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, clean legs and frame when soiled.
Mixed-use tables CFOC 4.9.0.9	X	X		X	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, clean legs and frame when soiled.
Food preparation equipment CFOC 4.9.0.9	X	X			X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash, rinse, and sanitize by hand <u>OR</u> Use dishwasher; set on sanitize setting.



Appendix K: Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Surface/Area	Method			Timing				Comments
	Clean	Sanitize	Disinfect	Before Each Use	After Each Use	Daily (end of day)	Weekly	
Child Care/Classroom Areas								
Pacifiers: <i>Used by one child</i> CFOC 3.1.4.3	X			X	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitize if dirty or used by another child. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use sanitizer safe for food contact <u>OR</u> ✓ Boil for 1 minute and air-dry <u>OR</u> ✓ Use dishwasher. Squeeze water through nipple hole to be sure it is clean
Mouthed toys: <i>Used by one child</i> CFOC 3.3.0.2	X			X	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitize if used by another child. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use sanitizer safe for food contact <u>OR</u> ✓ Use dishwasher.
Washable cloth toys: <i>Used by one child</i> CFOC 3.3.0.2	X						X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Machine wash and dry completely before use by another child.
Classroom toys CFOC 3.3.0.2 ; 5.3.1.4 ; 6.4.2.2	X						X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow label directions for cleaning of wooden toys.
Play activity centers CFOC 5.3.1.4	X					X		
Counters and shelves CFOC 5.3.1.4	X					X		
Mixed-use tables for activities CFOC 5.3.1.4	X				X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitize if used for food preparation, meals, or tooth-brushing.
Dress-up clothes (washable)	X						X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Machine wash and dry completely. Machine wash if soiled with body fluids.

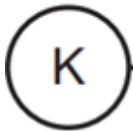


Appendix K: Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Surface/Area	Method			Timing				Comments
	Clean	Sanitize	Disinfect	Before Each Use	After Each Use	Daily (end of day)	Weekly	
Child Care/Classroom Areas								
Drinking fountains CFOC 5.2.6.10	X		X			X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean frequently throughout the day. • Disinfect at the end of the day.
Water tables and water equipment CFOC 6.2.4.2	X		X		X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/children wash hands before/after use. • Change water, clean, then disinfect water table, and toys before a new group begins water play or at the end of the day. • Children with open cuts or sores should not join in water play. • Do not use during illness outbreak.
Animal areas: feeders, fish tanks, or animal cages CFOC 3.4.2.3	X		X					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfect these areas after cleaning activity is finished.
Floors CFOC 5.3.1.6 ; 5.6.0.4	X					X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweep or vacuum, then damp mop. • Microfiber mops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Launder after use. • Cotton mop heads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Turn upside down to dry. • Disinfect if soiled with body fluids.
Carpets: Washable area rugs are a safer choice than wall-to-wall carpeting. CFOC 5.3.1.4	X						Clean area rugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacuum daily (with HEPA filter). • Steam clean carpets every 3–6 months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Spot clean if soiled with body fluids.

Appendix K: Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Surface/Area	Method			Timing				Comments
	Clean	Sanitize	Disinfect	Before Each Use	After Each Use	Daily (end of day)	Weekly	
High-Touch Surfaces: <i>May need to sanitize or disinfect more often during illness outbreaks. Refer to state, local, tribal, or territorial health authorities and child care licensing for more information.</i>								
Doorknobs, handles, and light switches	X					X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean often throughout the day with a microfiber cloth or disposable paper towels.
Shared computer keyboards, phones	X					X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean often throughout the day. Use silicone keyboard cover.
Sleeping Areas								
Sheets, blankets, and pillowcases: <i>Used by one child</i> CFOC 3.3.0.4 ; 5.4.5.1	X						X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Label and store each child’s sleep items separately from other children. Follow laundry detergent instructions. Wash laundry at warmest temperature setting, and dry completely. If soiled with body fluids, launder with non-chlorine bleach (preferred), or bleach and dry completely.
Cribs, cots, and mats: <i>Used by one child</i> CFOC 5.4.5.1	X				X		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use fitted sheet to cover sleep surface. Clean sleep surface regularly with a microfiber cloth or disposable paper towels. Disinfect surface if soiled with body fluids. Follow manufacturer’s instructions.
Cribs, cots, and mats: <i>Used by more than one child</i> CFOC 5.4.5.1	X				X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use fitted sheet to cover sleep surface. Clean sleep surface with a microfiber cloth or disposable paper towels after use by another child Disinfect surface if soiled with body fluids. Follow manufacturer’s instructions.



Appendix K: Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Surface/Area	Method			Timing				Comments
	Clean	Sanitize	Disinfect	Before Each Use	After Each Use	Daily (end of day)	Weekly	
Toilet and Diapering Areas								
Changing tables CFOC 3.2.1.4 ; 3.2.1.5 ; 5.4.2.6	X		X		X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow the surface to air dry between uses.
Diaper pails CFOC 5.4.1.8	X		X			X		
Toilets CFOC 5.4.1.7 ; 5.4.1.8	X		X			X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disinfect after use if soiled.
Sinks and faucets CFOC 5.4.2.2 ; 5.4.2.3	X		X			X		
Countertops	X		X			X		
Floors CFOC 5.6.0.4	X		X			X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use separate mops/mop heads for toilet/diapering areas and other areas. Use microfiber mops with split bucket (cleaning/rinsing system).



Appendix K: Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

- ❖ Related definitions can be found in the [CFOC Glossary](#).
- ❖ For more information, refer to CFOC [Standard 3.3.0.1 Routine Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting](#).
- ❖ For product selection, refer to [Appendix J: Selection and Use of Cleaning, Sanitizing, or Disinfecting Products](#).

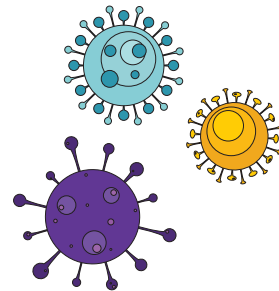
NOTES

- Frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol prevents the spread of infection. Hand sanitizers are less effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- Many cleaning products and air fresheners have hazardous chemicals. It is best to use a cleaning product with a third-party certification that says the product is safer to use. Choose products that are free of fragrances or dyes.
- Check the product label to see what personal protective equipment (PPE: such as gloves, glasses/goggles) is needed because of possible hazards. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after cleaning, sanitizing, or disinfecting.
- To reduce exposure to product fumes, ventilate the space by either opening windows or doors or bringing in outside air using a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. If you do not have a HVAC system, use a mechanical air filter in individual rooms. Refer to CFOC [Standard 5.2.1.1 Ensuring Access to Fresh Air](#).
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions (listed on the label) for safe use, cleaning, storage, and disposal of products. All containers of cleaning products and chemicals must be labeled.
- Microfiber cloths are preferred for cleaning. If microfiber cloths are not available, disposable towels can be used for cleaning. Using cotton cloths, cotton mops, and sponges in early childhood programs is not recommended. Refer to CFOC Standard [5.6.0.4: Microfiber Cloths, Rags, and Disposable Towels and Mops Used for Cleaning](#).
- Keep all chemical products locked up and safely out of the reach of children. Safely dispose of products not in use. Fumes from closed containers add to poor air quality.
- Disinfect surfaces or objects soiled with blood, and body fluids that are bloody, by following Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standard Precautions. Refer to CFOC [Standard 3.2.3.4 Prevention of Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids](#) and [Appendix L Cleaning Up Body Fluids](#). Carefully follow manufacturers' instructions for product use.

DISINFECTANTS & SURFACE SANITIZERS FAQ

in Schools and Child Care Programs

Providing a safe and healthy environment for students and staff is a priority for schools and child care programs. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has put together the most commonly asked questions about using disinfectants and surface sanitizers to provide clarification about proper use while ensuring compliance with the Healthy Schools Act.



Do cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting mean the same thing?

No. These terms mean different things. Cleaning physically removes dirt, germs, and other debris from a surface. Sanitizing kills germs on a previously cleaned surface and lowers their number to a safe level, as judged by public health standards. Disinfecting kills a greater amount and wider range of germs than sanitizing.



Is training needed before using disinfectants and surface sanitizers at a school?

Yes. A California law called the Healthy Schools Act has a training requirement for anyone applying pesticides, including disinfectants and surface sanitizers, at a public K-12 school or licensed child care center. Family day care homes are exempt. DPR provides free Healthy Schools Act training courses online or in a group training kit. Additional chemical hazard training may be required by Cal/OSHA.



Can foggers, fumigators, wide-area sprayers, and electrostatic sprayers be used to apply disinfectants at schools?

Yes, but **only** if the disinfectant product label specifically includes directions for use with fogging, fumigating, wide-area spraying, or electrostatic spraying equipment. Always use the disinfectant product according to the directions on the label.



What kind of personal protective equipment is needed to apply disinfectants?

The label of the disinfectant will tell you what personal protective equipment, or PPE, is required to safely mix and apply the product. Different products require different PPE, and it may change depending on how the product is applied.



How should bleach be used properly at schools?

Only EPA-registered disinfecting bleach should be used. Not all bleach products are intended for disinfecting, like laundry bleach. Check the label for directions on how much to use to disinfect. Do not mix bleach with any other cleaning products as it can be dangerous and ineffective. Always follow the label directions for effective use and to protect yourself and others.



What can be used to disinfect things like toys, art supplies, and books?

Some disinfectants will destroy paper material like books and may not be effective on textiles. Check the label for the materials that a disinfecting product can be used on. If an object cannot be disinfected, consider removing it from use and consult public health guidance for the amount of time before it can be safely reintroduced.



How can disinfectant wipes be used properly?

Disinfectant wipes are pesticides and must be used according to label directions. Like all disinfectants, they are only effective if the surface remains wet for the time it takes to kill the germs. Look for "contact time" on the product label, use a timer to keep track, and be prepared to use multiple wipes. Never use disinfectant wipes on the body. Disinfectant wipes cannot be used by students as indicated by the "Keep Out of Reach of Children" statement on all pesticides.



What can students use to help clean?

Cleaning is an important step before sanitizing or disinfecting. If allowed by the school, students can help clean with non-pesticide products such as baby wipes or soap and water. It is illegal for children to use disinfectants and surface sanitizers because they are antimicrobial pesticides. "Keep Out of Reach of Children" is on all pesticide labels, which means that children cannot use any pesticide.




Can household ingredients be mixed to make effective disinfectant solutions?

No. Making and using your own disinfectant solution can be dangerous and ineffective. Only EPA-registered disinfectants should be used. Follow all label directions to protect yourself and others.



More questions? Contact us!

 School IPM Program
school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov

 Website
www.cdpr.ca.gov

 Child Care IPM Program
ccipmlist@cdpr.ca.gov

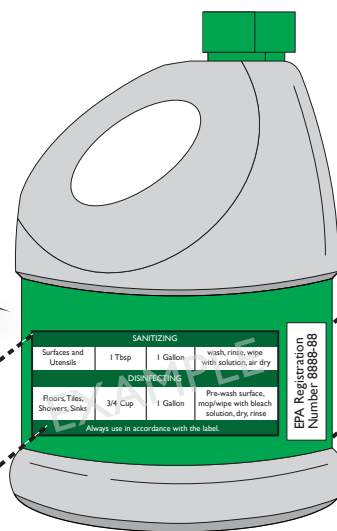
Antimicrobial Pesticide vs General Purpose Cleaner

ANTIMICROBIAL PESTICIDES

Antimicrobial Pesticides are used to kill germs on contaminated surfaces. **Pesticidal claims** on the product label use phrases such as:

“Disinfect” “Antimicrobial”
“Sanitizer” “Kills Germs”

SANITIZING			
Surfaces and Utensils	1 Tbsp	1 Gallon	wash, rinse, wipe with solution, air dry
DISINFECTING			
Floors, Tiles, Showers, Sinks	3/4 Cup	1 Gallon	Pre-wash surface, mop/wipe with solution, dry, rinse
Always use in accordance with the label.			



Antimicrobial Pesticides will always include an **EPA Registration** number and **use instructions** for killing germs.

GENERAL PURPOSE CLEANERS

General Purpose Cleaners are used only to clean surfaces by removing marks and debris.

General Purpose Cleaners have **No EPA** registration number. The label will not include instructions on how to kill germs.



DESCRIPTION	HOW TO USE
All-purpose cleaning product. Safe to use on counters, floors, sinks, and other hard surfaces.	Spray product on surface and wipe clean. For stubborn messes, let sit for a few minutes before scrubbing clean.



REMINDERS FOR USING DISINFECTANTS at Schools and Child Care Programs

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many California schools and child care programs have made it a priority to disinfect high-touch surfaces.

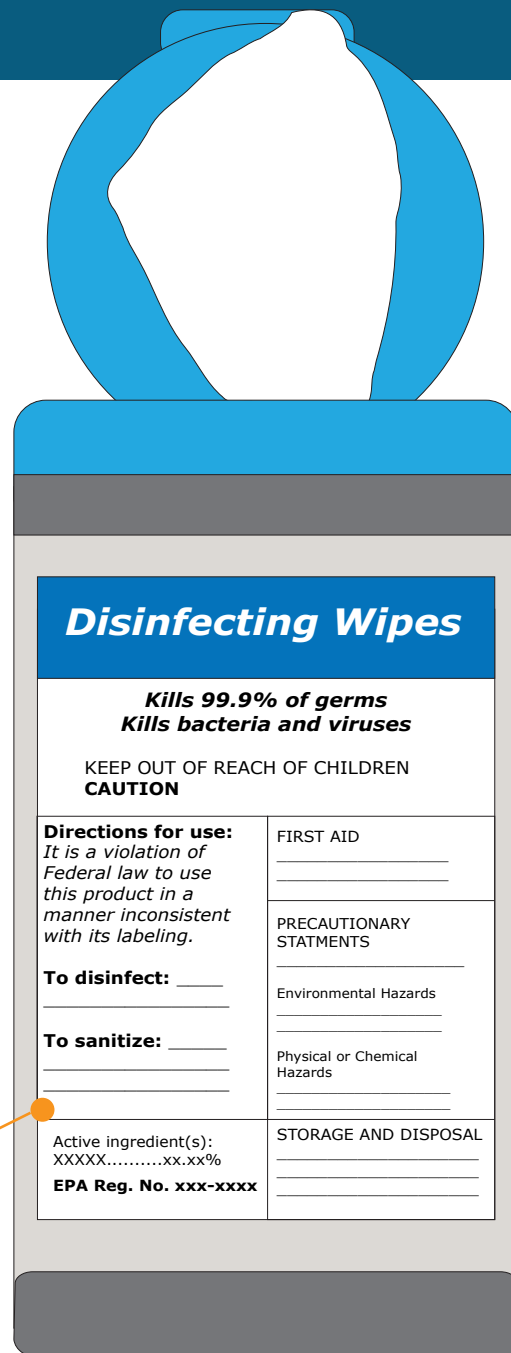
How to use disinfectants properly:

- **Never allow students to use disinfectants or touch the applied product.** Keep all disinfectants out of the reach of students.
- **Use only EPA-registered disinfectants.** Locate the EPA registration number on the product label and follow all label directions. Hand sanitizing products cannot be used to disinfect surfaces.
- **Keep the surface wet for the required contact time.** The contact time, specific to each product, is how long a surface must remain wet in order to be disinfected. If using disinfectant wipes, multiple wipes may be required.

DON'T FORGET

Under the Healthy Schools Act, DPR provides **online training** on how to use disinfectants. www.cdpr.ca.gov.

Disinfectants are pesticides and **must be used according to the label.**



HAND SANITIZERS ARE NOT PESTICIDES

Reduce germs and the need for antimicrobial pesticides by using safer, more sustainable strategies like integrated germ management.

Topical antiseptics, such as hand sanitizers and antibacterial soaps, kill microbes on the body and are regulated by the Food & Drug Administration. They are not included in the Healthy Schools Act because they are not pesticides

Antimicrobial pesticides, such as surface sanitizers and disinfectants, kill microbes on inanimate objects like desks or countertops. These and all other pesticide products are included in the Healthy Schools Act and are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

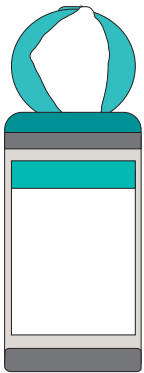
The Healthy Schools Act requires anyone using any pesticide at a school or child care center to complete annual training.



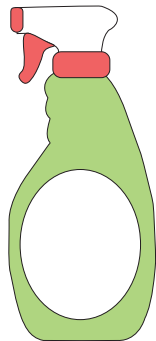
Is Healthy Schools Act Training Required?

YES

DISINFECTING WIPES



SANITIZING SPRAY



FOR SURFACES AND OBJECTS

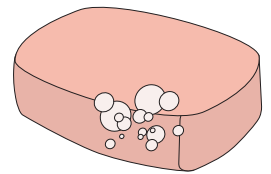
Antimicrobial pesticides, like disinfectants and surface sanitizers, are pesticides and are included in the Healthy Schools Act. Training is required before use at schools and child care centers.

NO

HAND SANITIZER



ANTIBACTERIAL SOAP



FOR THE BODY

Topical antiseptics, like hand sanitizers and antibacterial soaps, are not pesticides and are NOT included in the Healthy Schools Act.

GREEN CLEANING, SANITIZING, AND DISINFECTING IN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

NAME OF PROGRAM

DATE

Our program practices green cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting. In order to improve indoor air quality, enhance and protect the health of children and staff, and foster a healthy learning environment we:

1. Provide families, staff, and outside cleaning contractors with:
 - ▶ A list of approved cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products;
 - ▶ Procedures for how and when to safely use cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products in the facility;
 - ▶ Procedures for safe product dilution (if concentrates are used);
 - ▶ Print and online resources on green cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting.
2. Keep Safety Data Sheets on-hand for all chemicals used.
3. Use sanitizers and disinfectants with an EPA-registration number. Keep products in their original containers.
4. Monitor the facility for products not approved for use.
5. Train staff who apply cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products on safe handling practices in compliance with California Healthy Schools Act requirements and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. Provide training when hired and annually thereafter, or sooner if using new products. Maintain training records.
6. Provide personal protective equipment for our employees to use when it is necessary.
7. Provide dilution stations and label diluted products with contents and date mixed (if concentrates are used).
8. For cleaning, use soaps or all-purpose cleaners:
 - ▶ Without added antibacterial ingredients or fragrances;
 - ▶ Certified to be safer for human health and the environment by a third-party program, for example Green Seal, EcoLogo, and EPA Safer Choice.
9. Use asthma-safer sanitizing and disinfecting products with an active ingredient of hydrogen peroxide, citric acid, or lactic acid; or EPA

Design for Environment certification.

10. Ventilate the area as much as possible while cleaning to minimize exposure.

To reduce the spread of infectious disease:

1. We follow the Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards 3rd Edition: Appendix K Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting.
2. Bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) are made of materials can be washed. Each child's bedding is kept separate from other children's bedding, on the bed or stored in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags.
3. Carpets are vacuumed daily, in good repair, nonflammable, and nontoxic.
4. Any surface contaminated with body fluids (saliva, mucus, vomit, urine, stool, blood) is cleaned and disinfected immediately using standard precautions.
5. Countertops/tabletops, floors, doors and cabinet handles are cleaned and sanitized daily and when soiled.
6. In the toilet areas, toilets, toilet seats, toilet handles, door knobs/cubicle handles and floors are cleaned and sanitized daily, or immediately if visibly soiled. Handwashing sinks, faucets, surrounding counters, and soap dispensers are cleaned and sanitized daily and when soiled.
7. All of the food preparation, food service, and dining areas are cleaned and sanitized before and after use.
8. We encourage frequent handwashing using gentle soap and running water.

Modified from Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting: A Curriculum for Early Care and Education, available at: cerch.berkeley.edu/resources/educational-materials. (see Toolkit section).

Resource: OSHA Info Sheet: *Protecting Workers Who Use Cleaning Chemicals* www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2012-126/pdfs/2012-126.pdf.