

CLEANING

The physical removal of dust, soil, blood and secretions with water and detergents using mechanical action/friction. Cleaning does not kill microorganisms.

DISINFECTION

Chemical process for inactivating microorganisms on inanimate surfaces and objects.

CONTACT TIME

The time that a disinfectant must be in contact with a surface to ensure that disinfection has occurred. For most disinfectants, the surface should remain wet for the required contact time.

Determine cleaning frequency by the level of patient/resident contact and degree of soiling.

See chart below.

Surface	Low-Touch Surface	High-Touch Surface
Description	Surfaces that are minimally touched	Surfaces that are frequently touched
Example	Walls, ceilings, floors	Bedrails, overbed table, doorknobs, handwashing sinks
Cleaning Frequency	At least weekly and when visibly soiled	At least once daily

This material was prepared by Health Quality Innovators (HQI), a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. 1250W/HQI/QIN-QIO-0359-11/15/22

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LIST YOUR FACILITY'S PRODUCT BELOW:

Disinfectant Product	Contact/Wet/Kill Time
	minutes
	minutes
	minutes

Include multi-use electronic equipment in the cleaning and disinfection schedule, especially those items that are used during delivery of care and mobile devices that are moved in and out of patient/resident rooms frequently (e.g., daily). These items must be cleaned before use on another patient/resident.

Use EPA-registered disinfectants that have microbiocidal (i.e., killing) activity against the pathogens most likely to contaminate the patient/resident-care environment.

Check with equipment/surface manufacturer for cleaning product compatibility.

WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., gloves, gown) when handling items that are visibly soiled or may have been in contact with blood or body fluids and per the cleaning/disinfectant product recommendation.

To avoid spreading dirt and microorganisms, clean from cleaner to dirtier areas and top to bottom.



Selected EPA-Registered
Disinfectants | EPA



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