



Safer Disinfectant Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Using disinfectants on surfaces in your home can kill disease causing germs (bacteria and viruses), *but they may also have health risks.*



Clean all Surfaces

Clean surfaces in your house with an all-purpose cleaner or unscented liquid soap, and a cloth, preferably microfiber (available online, in grocery stores and at big box stores). Cleaning removes dirt and most germs on a surface and avoids excess exposure to disinfectants.

Disinfect high-touch surfaces

Clean surfaces, then disinfect with a product on *both* EPA lists: [Design for the Environment](#) antimicrobial pesticides and [N: Disinfectants](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2. This kills remaining germs.

Look for these safer active ingredients on the label:

- ▶ Citric Acid
- ▶ Hydrogen Peroxide
- ▶ L-lactic acid
- ▶ Ethanol
- ▶ Isopropanol
- ▶ Peroxyacetic acid
- ▶ Sodium Bisulfate.

Apply to the surface and leave glistening wet for the time listed on the product label.

Many disinfectants are not safe for use on food contact surfaces. Look for the words 'food-contact sanitizer' on the product label which indicates safety for food-contact surfaces.

If you can't access safer products

If you don't have access to a microfiber cloth, wash sponges or towels after every surface cleaned:

- ▶ **Clean sponges** by microwaving **non-metallic**, soaking wet sponges for one minute.
- ▶ **Wash towels** with soap or detergent in a basin or washing machine.

If you only have access to bleach or disinfectants with active ingredients other than those listed as safer:

- ▶ **Dilute disinfectants** per the package instructions;
- ▶ **Do not combine disinfectants**; and
- ▶ Be sure to **ventilate the area** as well as possible (open windows, turn on fans).



Find out more, download our detailed safer disinfecting factsheet [here](#).

See disclaimer on detailed safer disinfecting factsheet.

