



EFFECTIVE CLEANING

COVID-19 FACT SHEET

Effective cleaning procedures are important for reducing the risk of transmission of many germs, including COVID-19. This fact sheet provides information to help operators and their staff adopt good cleaning practices in their day to day work handling containers.

Transmission of COVID-19

State and Federal health departments have advised that COVID-19 is most likely spread from person to person in a range of ways including touching objects or surfaces (like door knobs or tables) contaminated by cough or sneeze droplets from a person with COVID-19 infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

Effective cleaning principles

Queensland Health advise that the most useful method for removing germs from surfaces is “mechanical” cleaning. This involves the following steps:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry them
- Wear disposable latex or vinyl gloves
- Wear eye protection to protect from chemical splashes
- Use a clean cloth, detergent and water to clean the surface
- Rinse with clean water and another clean cloth
- Allow the surface to dry
- Remove gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry them

Disinfectants

If the surface may have been touched by someone with COVID-19 or another illness the surface should then be disinfected. Disinfectants will not work on a dirty surface.

Queensland Health advise that, to kill germs, any disinfectant must:

- Have enough time in contact with the surface to kill the germs (as per the manufacturer’s instructions)
- Be used at the right concentration
- Be applied to a clean, dry surface
- Be effective against those germs.

Queensland Health also advise to clean frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, taps, benches, bathroom fixtures and phones more frequently.

More information

For the latest advice, information and resources, go to www.health.gov.au

Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you require translating or interpreting services, call 131 450.