



Commercial Cleaning Standards for Deep Cleaning and Disinfection for Coronavirus

**Executive
Report** >

You need a clean, safe environment for your employees & customers. Learn how a commercial cleaning company that provides disinfectant & infection control can help.

Commercial Cleaning Standards: Disinfectants for Coronavirus

The spread of the coronavirus has made sanitizing and disinfecting top of mind for everyone. Once COVID-19 is active in your facility, it can spread easily if you aren't doing a regular deep cleaning with disinfectants -even if your employees are washing their hands with soap and taking all the proper precautions.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) reports that it's possible to detect coronavirus in aerosol form for up to 3 hours, on copper surfaces for up to 4 hours, on cardboard for 24 hours, and for as long as 3 days on plastic and stainless steel surfaces. The virus can be transmitted through the air or by touching contaminated surfaces.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), **“cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is the way to prevent COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses.”** The CDC also says that cleaning alone will not kill germs. You need to disinfect a facility with EPA-registered disinfectants to get rid of germs on surfaces to reduce the risk of spreading infection.



Recommended Commercial Cleaning & Infection Control for Facilities

For schools, offices, daycare centers, or other areas where people do not stay overnight, the CDC says service providers should clean and disinfect all areas daily, including offices, bathrooms, common areas, touch screens, keyboards, and electronic equipment—especially shared devices.

For locations where people do stay overnight, they recommend cleaning and disinfecting individual areas and that particular care be taken to disinfect common areas where employees and others could encounter people who are infected. If someone with coronavirus has been identified in the facility, they suggest opening outside doors or windows to increase air circulation and waiting 24 hours or longer before deep cleaning and disinfecting.

Disinfecting Hard Surfaces

For non-porous surfaces, such as desks, table-tops, or metal, a commercial cleaning company should follow best practices for deep cleaning. This includes cleaning with detergent or cleaners first and then using EPA-registered disinfectants designed for hard surfaces.

Disinfecting Soft Surfaces

For porous surfaces, such as rugs, carpeting, or drapes, areas should be cleaned and then disinfected with cleaning products approved by the EPA for use on porous surfaces. If possible, remove and launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting. Detergent and agitation break down germs and heat help kill them.

Disinfecting Electronics

Careful cleaning of electronics as a part of the daily cleaning routine is necessary to avoid damage to components. Deep cleaning practices include the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays that contain at least 70% alcohol.



Cleaning Staff Protection

Gloves and gowns or uniforms should be worn by commercial cleaning staff when doing a disinfection. Depending on the disinfectant being used, additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may also be used.

Commercial Cleaning Company Standards: Disinfectants for Infection Control

Unlike regular commercial cleaning where dirt is visible, you can't see the coronavirus. Therefore, you have to clean and disinfect everything to kill it.

During a deep cleaning with disinfectants, your commercial cleaning company should use a two-step process to disinfect.

1. The first step is a general cleaning to remove soil, dirt, dust, organic matter, and most germs.
2. During the second step, approved disinfectants are used to destroy germs.

Your commercial cleaning company should pay special attention to common and high-touch areas, such as:

- Door handles and knobs
- Light switches
- Handrails
- Elevator buttons
- Phones
- Sinks and faucets
- Restroom stalls and dispensers
- Vending machines
- Food preparation surfaces
- Breakroom, restaurant and cafe tables and chairs
- Microwave, refrigerator and kitchen appliance handles
- Coffee machines
- Copier, printer and fax control buttons
- Cabinet and file drawer handles
- Chair arms
- Desks
- Countertops
- Front desk and lobby surfaces
- Equipment controls
- Wheelchairs and walkers
- Computer keyboards and mouse
- Remote controls
- Recreation equipment

A daily routine of deep cleaning with disinfectants for infection control should include entrance ways, lobby or reception areas, offices and open spaces, meeting rooms, hallways, lunchroom and breakrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, elevators, classrooms, counters, and other common areas.

In fighting coronavirus, some commercial cleaning companies use a spray solution dispersed by an electrostatically-charged sprayer. These sprayers work by generating charged droplets that repel one another. These droplets stick to surfaces and wrap around them to provide a protective coating. This is typically reserved for sensitive work areas, such as cleanrooms, labs, healthcare facilities, and schools. This type of equipment may cost extra.



Finding a Commercial Cleaning Company for Deep Cleaning for Coronavirus

When evaluating a commercial cleaning company, make sure they follow WHO and CDC guidelines for battling the coronavirus. It is also recommended that they are certified by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) in disinfecting for SARS-CoV2 / COVID 19 for bio risk. They should use sustainable, green products, and minimal disruption techniques whenever possible for cleaning, and only EPA-approved disinfectants.

Discuss your cleaning needs in detail. Once you have agreed on the level of deep cleaning you want, get it in writing. Your commercial cleaning company should provide a checklist for your review and mark items as complete after each deep clean.

If you are interested in electrostatic spraying, be aware this will be more expensive, and you may need to vacate the facility completely during applications.



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to take care of your deep cleaning for
disinfection and infection control needs.