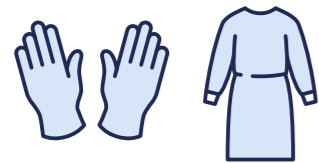


General instructions for surface cleaning and disinfecting in patient care areas

Step 1.

Gather supplies

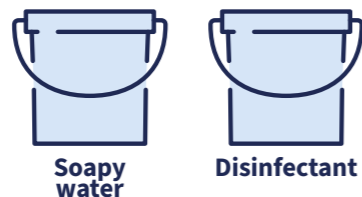
- Clean set of personal protective equipment (PPE) for each area cleaned.



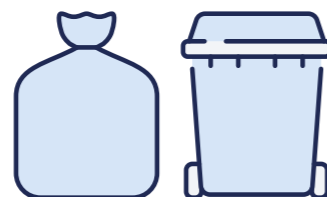
- At least 2 clean cloths for each area for cleaning (e.g. a single patient space).
 - More cloths may be needed if space is heavily contaminated.



- Bucket containing detergent (soapy water).
- Bucket containing disinfectant solution.
- Bucket containing clean water (optional).



- Waste bin or bag.



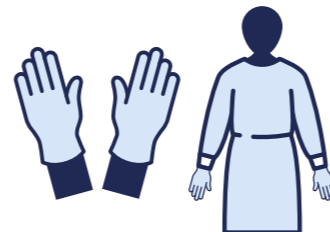
Step 2.

- Perform hand hygiene.



Step 3.

- For general cleaning, wear a gown (or apron) and gloves.

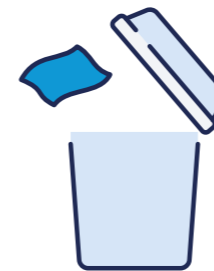


Step 4.

- Clean surfaces using a cloth soaked in soapy water.



- After cleaning, dispose of the cloth appropriately as waste or laundry.



Step 5.

- Disinfect high-touch surfaces (or all surfaces if isolation area) using a cloth soaked in disinfectant.



- Allow surfaces to remain untouched and unused until after the contact time specified by the disinfectant manufacturer.



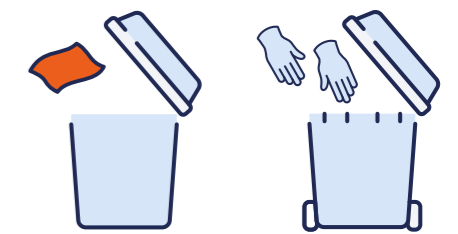
Step 6. (optional)

- As an optional step, remove disinfectant residue from surface using a cloth soaked in clean water.



Step 7.

- After cleaning each individual patient space or area, dispose of used cloths and PPE as waste or laundry in appropriate waste bin or laundry container.



Step 8.

- Perform hand hygiene.



How to fold and use a cloth for cleaning and disinfection

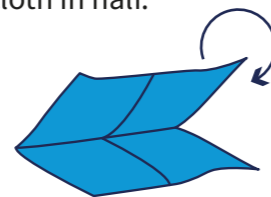
Step 1.

Use two clean cloths at minimum (one for cleaning, one for disinfection) for each patient space.



Step 2.

Fold cloth in half.



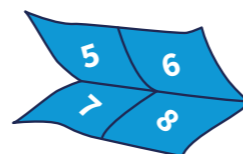
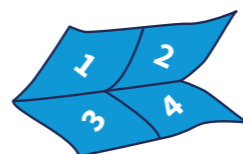
Step 3.

Then fold the cloth in half again.



Step 4.

You now have eight different surfaces on the cloth (4 surfaces on front, 4 surfaces on back).



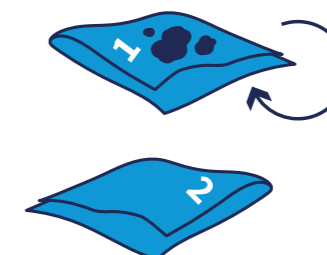
Step 5.

Soak the cloth in each bucket only once. Do not dip the cloth in the bucket a second time as this will contaminate the solution.



Step 6.

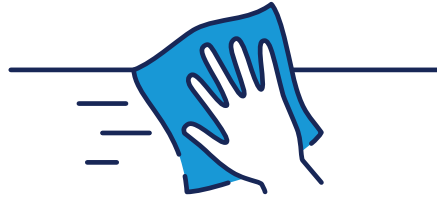
Switch to a different cloth surface when soiled or when cleaning a different object or furnishing in the patient space to avoid spreading contamination.



Step 7.

When all sides have been used, dispose of the cloth appropriately as waste (if single-use) or place in laundry container and use a new cloth to continue the task. Always use clean cloths when moving to a different patient's space.





1. Conduct a risk assessment to determine if the patient's status could pose a challenge to safe cleaning and to see if any additional PPE or supplies may be needed to perform cleaning and disinfection (e.g. if patient is on transmission-based precautions).
2. Always clean with soap and water before applying disinfectant. Cleaning with soap and water with physical friction is the most important step of the cleaning process to physically remove infectious reservoirs. Organic material left on surfaces decreases the effectiveness of disinfectants.
3. **Clean less dirty areas first to avoid spreading contamination.**
4. **Proceed from high surfaces to low surfaces to prevent dirt and microorganisms from dripping or falling and contaminating already cleaned areas.**
5. The same steps and principles can be used for damp mopping of floors, with mop heads replaced at the same intervals as cleaning cloths.

Additional cleaning supply considerations

1. If cleaning a space used by a patient with an infection requiring transmission-based precautions, wear additional PPE relevant to the transmission risk.
2. If cleaning a large spill, wear a medical mask and eye protection (goggles or face shield) in addition to gown or apron and gloves when cleaning.
3. **If reusable cloths or heavy-duty gloves are used, ensure a separate bucket or laundry bag is available to collect these items after use.**
4. If a third bucket of clean water is used to rinse disinfectants off of surfaces after the appropriate contact time; an additional clean cloth must also be made available to use for this step.
5. When cleaning tasks are complete, all equipment should be cleaned (e.g. reusable cloths and mop heads should be sent to laundry for cleaning and disinfection) and stored dry in a designated storage area or cupboard.

Specific cleaning directions for various furnishings in the health-care environment can be found in the WHO publication: Environmental cleaning and infection prevention and control in health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries: Modules and resources.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240051065>