

Environmental Cleaning – which products to use

Coronavirus can survive on surfaces and objects for up to 72 hours. Transmission of the virus includes contact with contaminated surfaces.

During an outbreak of infection, environmental cleaning is an essential part of limiting the spread of the infection. Disinfection is required either in a combined product or after cleaning with a detergent.

- Household products such as Flash with Bleach and Milton Spray are unsuitable.
- Use a virucidal (kills viruses) disinfectant or combined detergent/virucidal disinfectant solution for cleaning hard surfaces which has 1000ppm available chlorine. Milton 50ml/litre of water is suitable after cleaning with detergent and water or detergent wipes.
- If your supply company provides a different disinfectant check its efficacy against coronavirus with the manufacturer.
- To ensure efficacy, chlorine-based disinfectant solutions must be made up to the manufacturer's instructions, i.e. measure the product and water accurately, no guesses.
- Discard solutions as per manufacturer's instructions, e.g. chlorine-based disinfectant solutions should be disposed of 24 hours after making up.

Disposable Wipes

Not all wipes on the market have been tested for effectiveness for Coronavirus.

It is important to use wipes that are combined detergent and disinfectant (eg: Clinell universal, Medipal 3 in 1) and are effective against viruses and bacteria.

Wipes need to be used properly to be effective.

- Use 1 wipe at a time then discard.
- Don't clean multiple surfaces with the same wipe
- Cover all areas once using an S shaped pattern to prevent recontamination
- There needs to be a contact time of the wet product with the surface of 60 seconds (check the contact time for the wipe you are using). The wipes are designed to keep the surface wet for the whole contact time.
- The surface needs to be allowed to dry naturally.

Further information related policies:

<https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/content/uploads/2019/07/CH-09-Environmental-cleanliness-June-2019-Version-1.00.pdf>

<https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/content/uploads/2019/07/CH-18-Outbreaks-of-communicable-disease-June-2019-Version-1.00.pdf>