

General principles of cleaning during the COVID-19 pandemic

(Extract from Public Health England: COVID-19 Cleaning in non-health care settings outside the home – updated 15 July 2020)

This section provides general cleaning advice for non-healthcare settings where no one has symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19.

Cleaning and disinfection

Regular cleaning plays a vital role in limiting the transmission of COVID-19. Reducing clutter and removing difficult to clean items can make cleaning easier. Increase the frequency of cleaning, using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach, paying attention to all surfaces but especially ones that are touched frequently, such as door handles, light switches, work surfaces, remote controls and electronic devices. As a minimum, frequently touched surfaces should be wiped down twice a day, and one of these should be at the beginning or the end of the working day.

Cleaning should be more frequent depending on the number of people using the space, whether they are entering and exiting the setting and access to handwashing and hand-sanitising facilities. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces is particularly important in bathrooms and communal kitchens.

When cleaning surfaces, it is not necessary to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) or clothing over and above what would usually be used. Laundry items should be washed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. There is no additional washing requirement above what would normally be carried out

Cleaning where there has been a person with symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19

For guidance on cleaning where there has been a person with symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19, please refer to the section on principles of cleaning after a case has left the setting or area.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings#left-area>