

Covid-19: What is a DEEP CLEAN

Guidance on cleaning rooms/facilities following a suspected, probable, or confirmed case of COVID-19

PLEASE NOTE: This information is for reference only

For more in-depth information regarding general cleaning following a suspected, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 please access the most up to date information at www.health.govt.nz

This document provides some guidance on cleaning a room that has been used by a suspected, probable, or confirmed COVID-19 case. It can be used to guide the cleaning of hostel/institution rooms and hotel rooms where a suspected, probable, or confirmed COVID-19 case has stayed. It can also be used by education providers and accommodation providers or in any other public place.

The Infection Prevention and Control nurse at the local District Health Board/ public health unit can provide further guidance if required.

- **Top to bottom:** start cleaning surfaces higher up and work your way to the floor. This method ensures that any particulates or debris fall to the floor which will be cleaned last.
- **Clean to dirty:** start by cleaning surfaces and objects that are cleaner and work your way to cleaning dirtier items (e.g., toilets). Avoid going from an area that has not been cleaned to an area that has been cleaned. This avoids dirtying the cleaned area and will ensure you are not cross-contaminating items or surfaces

[Prior to cleaning](#)

Personal protective equipment (PPE): wear a disposable facemask, gown, and gloves when cleaning. If the cleaning product manufacturer recommends eye protection, wear a face shield or goggles.

Order for putting on PPE:

1. hand hygiene
2. gown
3. mask
4. protective eyewear
5. gloves (these can include heavy duty household gloves).

Any hospital grade detergent/disinfectant products are suitable for cleaning following a suspected, probable, or confirmed case of COVID-19. Read label of cleaning products and follow recommendations provided on product labels. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product, including precautions you should take when applying it. Specific PPE and dwell time (how long the cleaning product should remain wet on the surface before drying) should be included in product instructions.

Recommended cleaning product should be a 2-in-1 product (containing both cleaning and disinfectant properties) to increase efficiency.

Covid-19 is spread by droplets in the air, and when people touch surfaces that infectious droplets have landed on. Droplets can be spread when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets are too large to stay in the air for long, so they quickly settle on surrounding surfaces. Covid-19 can survive on different surfaces for different lengths of time, the Ministry of Health say deep clean? Colleen Hawkes · 05:00, Jan 30 2021

The exact time is dependent on the surface, temperature, and humidity, but studies have shown that Covid-19 can survive for up to 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel, but less than 24 hours on cardboard, and as little as four hours on copper. For these reasons, a deep clean is usually used to reduce the risk of community transmission.

PPE is the first priority

Before any cleaning can take place, cleaners have to put on personal protective equipment (PPE) – and there's a set way to do this:

Disinfect hands Put on gown or apron Put on mask

Once the cleaning is done, there's another set procedure to follow to take off PPE:

Remove gloves. Perform hand hygiene. Remove gown. Perform hand hygiene. Remove protective eyewear (if worn and separate from mask). Perform hand hygiene. Remove mask. Perform hand hygiene

Cleaning products Hospital grade detergent/disinfectant products are used for cleaning following a confirmed or probable case of Covid19. These contain both cleaning and disinfectant agents to increase efficiency.

If possible, windows are kept open for ventilation during the clean. What is 'fogging'?

Deep-cleaning services include electrostatic fogging, which disperses micro-droplets of disinfectant and biocides into the air. These can reach areas not touched by conventional cleaning methods. The electrostatic particles dispersed with fogging also attach to the underside of surfaces, giving complete protection.

Table-top appliances, crockery and cutlery are removed and placed in non-porous, covered containers to be taken to the dishwasher or kitchen.

All table-top appliances (for example, a kettle) are cleaned according to instructions. Household items, such as dishes, cups, eating utensils, are cleaned thoroughly, preferably in a commercial dishwasher.

All large kitchen appliances, such as refrigerators and ovens, are cleaned inside and out.

All "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, cupboards, tabletops, door and drawer knobs, phones and light switches are cleaned.

Bathroom fixtures, showers and toilets are cleaned with a separate set of cleaning equipment (disposable cleaning cloths, etc) using disinfectant or bleach solution. Toilets are the last item in the bathroom to be cleaned.

Once this cleaning is completed, cleaners remove and dispose of their gloves, wash their hands with soap and water and dry them thoroughly with a clean towel or paper towel. They then put on clean gloves.

The carpet is then vacuumed. Steam cleaning of carpets and rugs is not required.

For hard floor surfaces, floors are cleaned with the prepared disinfectant or bleach solution. The cleaner moves from one end of the premises to

another (starting at the far side of the room and working back to the exit/door).

At the end of cleaning, all used gowns, face masks, gloves and other contaminated items are removed (in correct order) and placed in a lined container before being disposed of with other household/general waste.

Cleaners wash their hands immediately after handling these items. Similar procedures are followed for offices, along with deep cleaning of computers, computer desks, shared equipment, copier machines, chair armrests, handrails, lift buttons, office kitchens, breakout and meeting rooms (including tables, touchpads and remote controls), doors and bathrooms (sinks, taps, toilets, dispensers). Fogging is also used for these spaces.

Order for removing PPE:

1. gloves
2. hand hygiene
3. gown
4. hand hygiene
5. protective eyewear (if separate from mask)
6. hand hygiene
7. mask
8. hand hygiene.