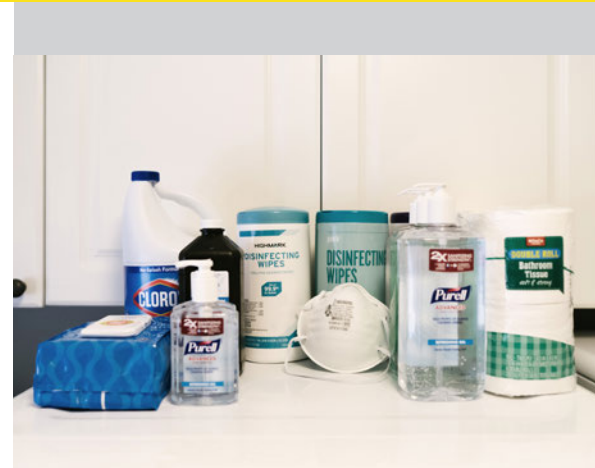




CLEANERS, DISINFECTANTS, & SANITIZERS

all play an important role in preventing infectious diseases such as the common cold, influenza, tuberculosis, and coronavirus. Although sometimes used synonymously, cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing are different functions. It's important to know the role of each to ensure that they are used correctly to help minimize the risk of spreading infectious disease.

Different cleaning chemicals have different requirements prior to use and may require training and advanced personal protective equipment (PPE). Additionally, some product may damage and discolor surfaces. Please consult with CPFM Custodial Services or Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) if you have questions.



Examples of different kinds of cleaning products.

CLEANING:

is a process to remove germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap or detergent and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

DISINFECTING:

is a process that uses chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. Disinfectants are most effective when used after a surface has been cleaned. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains a list ([List N](#)) that contains disinfectants that are effective against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). The list states how much time is needed to kill the virus and is updated regularly.

SANITIZING:

lowers the number of germs on a surface or objects to a safe level as judged by public health standards. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

WHAT TO DO!

- Determine what you want to accomplish; clean, sanitize, or disinfect. Choose the correct product for the job. If you have questions about different products, contact CPFM Custodial Services or EHS.
- Read the product label thoroughly before working with any cleaning products.
- Follow all **safety** instructions carefully. Some products call for the use of gloves or eye protection.
- Follow all **use** instructions carefully. Some require the surface to remain wet for a specific amount of time before wiping dry, while others don't require any wiping.
- Unless otherwise specified, surfaces must be generally clean before disinfecting.
- Do not mix or combine cleaners.
- Contact the appropriate facilities team for your work area to request additional cleaning as needed.
- Contact EHS or your Facilities Manager for assistance in selection and use of cleaning products and methods.

