# The Facts On Cleaning and Disinfecting

Reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 by cleaning and disinfection is an important part of reopening public spaces. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be killed if you use the right products. This includes ready-to-use sprays, concentrates, wipes, and soap and water.

## Safety Tips

- **Hit the High Touch Areas.** These are surfaces that are frequently touched and need to be disinfected often.
- **Be specific.** Before you apply disinfectants, read the label. Labels contain valuable information such as proper use guidelines, first aid directions, and hazard warning/danger statements.
- **Time is on your side.** Disinfectants have “dwell times” listed on their label. This will tell you how long the surface must stay wet in order to kill various pathogens. The disinfectant MUST be wet on the surface for the duration of the contact time to be effective.
- **NEVER mix disinfectants with cleaners or other chemicals.** Mixing a disinfectant with anything else may change the properties, rendering less effective or it could possibly generate an interaction with another chemical creating a hazardous gas or other hazard.

## High Touch Areas

- Tables
- Doorknobs
- Light Switches
- Countertops
- Cabinets
- Desks
- Phones
- Keyboards
- Toilets
- Faucets and Sinks
- Touch Screens
- Towel Dispensers
- Paper Towel Holders
- Garbage Cans
- Hand Dryers

## Important Reminders

- **Wear PPE as required by the product label.**
- **Practice good hand hygiene.**
- **Practice social distancing.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Always follow the directions on the label of disinfectants to ensure proper use.**
- **Clean visibly dirty surfaces with soap and warm water prior to disinfection.**
- **Clean routinely.**
- **Clean frequently touched surfaces more often.**

The photo above demonstrates the proper removal of nitrile gloves.

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For more information on COVID-19 visit www.clemson.edu/research/safety.