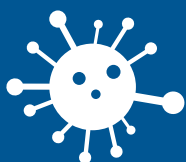


# How to Clean & Disinfect Equipment

Clinic and frontline staff can use this best practice guide for cleaning and disinfection of the physical environment in health care as they relate to the prevention and control of infections.



Equipment in health-care environments **can spread infections due to potentially harmful germs and frequent contact with contaminated surfaces**. It's important to clean and disinfect equipment and surfaces after each use.

## APPROVED CLEANING & DISINFECTANT PRODUCTS

- Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP), Accel Intervention / Prevention, Oxivir TB etc. are approved by the WRHA for use.
- Cleaners and disinfectants are provided in wipe and liquid forms and are available for all staff to use

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Three things you need for effective cleaning and disinfection:

- Proper cleaning & disinfectant products approved by IP&C.
- Friction from cleaning and scrubbing motion.
- Appropriate wet contact time stated on the product label.

## NON-CRITICAL PATIENT CARE ITEMS TO CLEAN & DISINFECT

According to Spaulding's classification:

- Items that touch intact skin (i.e. not mucous membranes) or do not directly contact the patient require cleaning followed by disinfectant.
- Items include, but are not limited to): ECG machines, blood pressure cuffs, pulse oximeters, thermometers, IV pumps & poles, beds, exam tables, treatment chairs, stretchers, wheelchairs etc.

## PRECAUTIONS FOR STAFF

Reduce the risk of blood and body fluid exposure, staff should wear PPE appropriate for the task being performed and cleaning chemical used.

**Contact WRHA Infection Prevention and Control for more information.**



## GUIDELINES FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION IN HEALTH-CARE SETTINGS

- ✓ Ensure one-way workflow is followed. Start with least soiled to most soiled, and where appropriate, from top to bottom, and outside to inside.
- ✓ Frequently change wipes and cloths to prevent the transfer of germs from surface to surface.
- ✓ Use mechanical action (friction) to effectively clean and disinfect equipment:
  - Use two (2) separate AHP wipes or cloths to clean and disinfect.
  - The first wipe is used to remove any visible soiling.
  - A second wipe is used to disinfect the item.
- ✓ Wet contact time with the product must be achieved. Contact time is the amount of time a product must stay wet on a surface.
  - Most AHP disinfectant cleaning products have one-minute wet contact time.
- ✓ If an item is visibly soiled it must be cleaned before disinfecting.
- ✓ If an item is visibly clean only one (1) AHP wipe or cloth is needed to clean and disinfect.
- ✓ Even if an item appears clean it should still be cleaned and disinfected before use with a new patient.

