

Laundry and Environmental Cleaning in the Home

Laundry

Routine laundry practices, detergents, and laundry additives will all help to make clothes, towels and bedding safe to wear or touch. It is not necessary to separately wash clothing, towels, or bedding visibly soiled with wound drainage or blood.

In general, wash and dry clothing in the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label. Follow the clothing and soap or detergent label instructions for water temperatures for household laundry, depending on the type of fiber or fabric of the clothing, towels and bedding.

It is not necessary to use bleach for each load of laundry. Clean laundry produced by washing with detergent alone will be safe for wear and use.

Environmental Cleaning

What's the difference between cleaners, sanitizers, and disinfectants?

Cleaners or detergents are products that are used to remove soil, dirt, dust, organic matter, and germs (like bacteria, viruses, and fungi). Cleaners or detergents work by washing the surface to lift dirt and germs off surfaces so they can be rinsed away with water. The same thing happens when you wash your hands with soap and water or when you wash dishes. Rinsing is an important part of the cleaning process. Use these products for routine cleaning of surfaces in the bathroom, bedroom and kitchen.

Sanitizers are used to reduce germs from surfaces but not totally get rid of them. Sanitizers reduce the germs from surfaces to levels that are considered safe.

Disinfectants are chemical products that destroy or inactivate germs and prevent them from growing. Disinfectants have no effect on dirt, soil, or dust. Disinfectants are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). You can use a disinfectant after cleaning surfaces that have visible blood or drainage from infected skin.

Surfaces to Clean

Focus on surfaces that touch people's bare skin and any surfaces that could come in contact with infections that are not covered in the bathroom, bedroom and kitchen.

Handwashing

Routinely wash and rinse all surfaces of your hands with soap and water for 15 seconds, then dry with a clean towel. If hands are not visibly soiled, may use alcohol based hand sanitizer, rubbing all surfaces of your hands, until they are dry.

Reference: www.cdc.gov