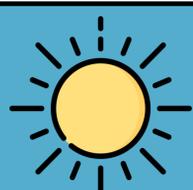


As schools plan to reopen, what are the safest ways to disinfect?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidance provides some useful tips.



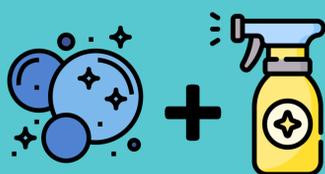
Sometimes no disinfectants are needed. Cleaning with soap and water removes germs and reduces risk.



Virus on surfaces die in hours or days. Remember that warm temperatures and sunlight reduce virus survival.



Disinfecting is not needed if surface is not touched frequently or outdoors.



To make disinfectants effective, it's important to clean dirty surfaces with soap and water before disinfecting.



Always remember: social distancing, face coverings, washing hands frequently are important.

How can I find a safer cleaning product?

CEH recommends U.S. EPA's Safer Choice program.

The Safer Choice label means that "every ingredient must meet strict safety criteria for both human health and the environment, including carcinogenicity, reproductive/developmental toxicity, toxicity to aquatic life, and persistence in the environment".¹

Find Safer Choice cleaners here: [EPA Safer Choice Website](#)

Other labels for safer cleaning products are EcoLogo and Green Seal.



How can I find a safer disinfectant?

CEH's Safe Disinfectant criteria:

- U.S. EPA's Design for the Environment standard
- U.S. EPA's coronavirus efficacy criteria
- Do not contain other harmful ingredients

The Design for the Environment (DfE) standard means that the product is "unlikely to have carcinogenic or endocrine disruptor properties and is unlikely to cause developmental, reproductive, mutagenic, or neurotoxicity issues."² However, many disinfectants that meet DfE standards still contain ingredients that are harmful to human health, such as 'quats' (quaternary ammonium compounds).

CEH recommended disinfectants for School & Office use:

- Wexford Innovations CleanCide RTU: [Manufacturer Website](#)
- PURELL Surface Disinfectant and Sanitizer Spray: [Manufacturer Website](#)

CEH recommended disinfectant for Home use:

- 70% alcohol is a safe, virus-killing alternative to pesticide-based disinfectants.
- Lysol® Cleaner with Hydrogen Peroxide: [Manufacturer Website](#)



¹EPA Safer Choice Fact Sheet

²Design for the Environment Logo for Antimicrobial Pesticide Products