

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF ACCOMMODATION AND PUBLIC AREAS

Cleaning should be carried out in the usual thorough way before guests' arrival and on departure including surfaces of all outside furniture, switches and handrails.

Cleaning materials

- adequate supplies of detergent/ disinfectant
- disposable cloths or paper roll
- disposable mop heads
- steamer for soft furnishings if you don't have a disinfectant that can be used on soft furnishing.
- waste bags – as well as the usual refuse sacks these may need to include:
 - yellow clinical waste sacks for use with a confirmed contaminated unit –these they will require specialist collection if used
 - red soluble laundry bags –needed only if you have a confirmed contaminated unit.

Cleaning team

- which team members will form the 'hit squad'? i.e. actually carry out the cleaning
- train team members in safe cleaning procedures and re-enforce principles of social distancing [here](#)
- who will substitute for them if they have to, for example, self-isolate?
- if possible, accommodation should be cleaned by one person; where two team members work together consider a procedure to enable social distance.
- obtain adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for team members (see below)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for team members

Team members should be required to wear the correct PPE that fits properly.

The minimum PPE required to be worn for cleaning/ decontaminating accommodation is disposable gloves and a disposable apron. Team members should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after all PPE has been removed.

Managers should ensure that appropriate PPE is worn as necessary and the full cleaning process completed.

See Government guidance at [COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#)

Cleaning accommodation

The risk of being infected by the virus depends on numerous factors, including the type of surfaces contaminated, the amount of virus shed from an individual, the time an individual spent in the accommodation and the time since an individual was last in the accommodation.

On entering the accommodation open as many doors and windows open as possible (weather dependent) to ventilate the area.

Clear the accommodation (into refuse sacks) of any personal items that remain: papers, personal items, food (checking fridge).

Review processes so that cleaning and sanitising are carried out on all frequently touched surfaces outside and within the accommodation.

Items to be cleaned include but are not limited to:

- door handles including cupboards, wardrobes etc.
- door push plates
- light switches
- remote controls
- kitchen appliances
- plug casings (switched off and done with care).
- kitchen worktops, handles, taps, etc
- thermostats
- hand rails
- keys
- floors
- window sills and handles
- tables
- chairs
- bins
- kitchen and bathroom walls
- coat hangers
- bathroom sanitary fittings
- bathroom surfaces, taps, handles, shower doors etc

This process is essential to reduce the risk of the virus spreading both to team members cleaning the accommodation and to the next occupant.

Wash all crockery, pans and cutlery etc. supplied with the accommodation thoroughly; use a dishwasher if possible. Any chipped or cracked crockery should be disposed of.

Cleaning hard surfaces

Disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads should be used to clean and disinfect all hard surfaces.

To disinfect use either:

- a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million available chlorine, **or**,
- a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturers' instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants, **or**,
- if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation, this should be checked to ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses.

Cleaning soft surfaces

The disinfectant used may be suitable for use on soft furnishings. Alternatively, for example on upholstered furniture, soft furnishings and mattresses, steam cleaning may be used.

Team members should avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning. Any cloths and mop heads must be disposed of after use; put into waste bags as outlined below.

ULV fogging machines may be considered; they provide a quicker alternative to cleaning chemicals. They can disinfect large areas, combat airborne pathogens and permit rapid re-entry to the treated area.

Dealing with waste from cleaning and disinfection

Waste from possible cases of coronavirus and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths, tissues, and face coverings if worn) should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied. Waste should not be left unsupervised on the park awaiting collection.

Contamination

If a higher level of contamination could be present, for example accommodation occupied by an unwell person or where there is visible contamination with body fluids, then the need for additional PPE such as an appropriate face covering should be considered and issued to the cleaning team.

Advice on this can be given by the local Health Protection Team; you can find yours here <https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team>

Environmental decontamination after a confirmed or symptomatic guest has left the park accommodation

All surfaces with which the symptomatic person has come into contact must be cleaned and disinfected, as described.

Cleaning gross contamination

- in the unlikely event of spillages of blood and body fluids, these should be managed in accordance with spillage policy before cleaning and disinfection - HSE advice on cleaning up body fluids is here.
- If any items are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be appropriately cleaned, consideration should be given to discarding them. I
- the area can then be cleaned as directed by any existing workplace Risk Assessment or manufacturer's instructions on the safe use of their cleaning products. In this situation additional PPE to protect the eyes nose and mouth should be used by team members.
- waste should be treated as clinical waste and be placed in yellow bags and collection arranged for clinical waste.

Laundry

Laundry items heavily soiled with body fluids should be disposed of.

- place laundry in a red dissolvable bag (if available) for transportation to the point of laundering
- do not shake items and avoid all necessary agitation
- wash items on the hottest temperature setting the fabric will tolerate
- gloves and apron should be used when loading laundry into a machine
- laundry bag to be disposed of as per waste management guidance outlined below.

Follow up of employees involved in environmental cleaning and disinfection

For team members who have cleaned/ decontaminated accommodation where the occupant had a possible/ confirmed case of COVID-19, names and contact details of team members carrying out the work should be recorded by a designated person.

Advice taken from BH&HPA – H&S considerations in COVID-19 environment – June 2020

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