

A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. A lock () or https:// means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites.

Cleaning is an important first step to make sure you remove most germs from surfaces in your home. Using household cleaners that contain soap or detergent will remove germs and dirt on surfaces. Cleaning alone removes most harmful viruses or bacteria from surfaces. Surfaces should be cleaned before they are sanitized or disinfected because impurities like dirt may make it harder for chemicals to get to and kill germs. Sanitizing reduces the remaining germs on surfaces after cleaning. Disinfecting can kill viruses and bacteria that remain on surfaces after cleaning. By killing germs on a surface after cleaning, disinfecting can further lower the risk of spreading germs that can cause illness. For everyday cleaning, you probably do not need to sanitize or disinfect unless someone in your home is sick or someone sick has recently visited. Remember to clean first, and then sanitize or disinfect if needed. In most situations, cleaning regularly is enough to prevent the spread of germs. Follow these tips to safely clean different surfaces in your home:

- For hard surfaces, such as counters, certain toys, light switches, and floors:
- For soft surfaces such as carpet, rugs, and drapes:
- For laundry items, such as clothing, towels, cloth toys, and linens:
- For electronics, such as phones, tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls:

Some surfaces and objects in your home may need to be sanitized after they are cleaned. Daily sanitizing may not be necessary if surfaces and objects are cleaned carefully after use. To sanitize a surface or object, use a weaker bleach solution or an EPA-registered sanitizing product. For nonporous objects, such as certain toys and infant feeding items:

- For hard surfaces, such as kitchen counters and food preparation areas:

For more information on food safety, please visit CDC's Food Safety page. In addition to cleaning, disinfect your home when someone is sick or if someone is at a higher risk of getting sick due to a weakened immune system (for example, people being treated with immune-suppressing drugs for cancer, organ

transplants, or other illnesses, or people with HIV or genetic conditions that affect the immune system). To disinfect, use an EPA-registered disinfecting product or a stronger bleach solution. Clean the surface with soap and water first. Follow these important safety guidelines when using chemical disinfectants: If ready-to-use disinfectants are not available, you can use bleach solutions for many hard surfaces. Bleach solutions will be effective against bacteria, viruses, and fungi when properly diluted. Learn more about cleaning and disinfecting surfaces using bleach solutions. Many diseases and conditions can be prevented or controlled through appropriate personal hygiene and by regularly cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces. Languages Language Assistance Languages Language Assistance

