

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. Consider the type of surface and how often it is touched. Generally, high-touch surfaces (for example, tabletops, doorknobs and handles, toys) are more likely to have germs on them. If the area is used often, you may choose to clean it more often or disinfect it in addition to cleaning. It's important to follow standard cleaning procedures. To clean surfaces, use a product that is suitable for each surface and follow the instructions on the product label. Clean visibly dirty surfaces, including lunch tables or craft areas. Clean daily, after a meal or activity. For hard surfaces, such as certain toys, high-chair trays, and floors: For soft surfaces such as clothing, cloth toys, and rugs: When to sanitize You may need to sanitize some surfaces and objects after each use. How to sanitize safely You may not need to sanitize surfaces and objects daily if they are cleaned carefully after use. To sanitize a surface or object, use a weakened bleach solution, an EPA-registered sanitizing spray, or a dishwasher. For cloth materials, such as bibs, placemats, napkins, and tablecloths: For nonporous objects, such as certain toys and infant feeding items: Get more information on how to sanitize infant feeding items. For hard surfaces, such as highchair trays, plates, and food preparation areas: Get more information on food safety. A weakened bleach solution is bleach diluted in water. If you cannot boil or steam items to sanitize them, consider using a weakened bleach solution.

- Prepare a bleach solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented bleach per gallon (16 cups) of water in a clean wash basin.
- Put items completely underwater. Make sure the solution touches all parts and there are no air bubbles.
- Soak items for at least 2 minutes.
- Remove with clean hands or tongs. Do not rinse because germs could get back onto the sanitized items. Any remaining bleach will break down quickly as it dries and will not hurt children.

Get more information on sanitizing with bleach. Some areas in early care and education settings, such as bathrooms and diaper changing tables, should be regularly

disinfected. Immediately clean surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled. If surfaces or objects are soiled with body fluids or blood, use gloves and other standard precautions to avoid coming into contact with the fluid. Remove the fluid and then clean and disinfect the surface. Use disinfecting wipes on electronic items that are touched often, such as phones and computers. Pay close attention to the directions for using disinfecting wipes. You may need to use more than one wipe to keep the surface wet for the stated length of contact time. Follow manufacturer's instructions and recommendations for cleaning electronics. Use disinfectant products safely. To disinfect, clean the surface with soap and water first. Then use an EPA-registered disinfecting product or a diluted bleach solution. Follow these important safety guidelines when using chemical disinfectants: 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

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<https://www.cdc.gov/hygiene/about/how-to-clean-and-disinfect-early-care-and-education-settings.html>