



Cleaning Procedures for Public Restrooms

June 10, 2020 - Based on recommendations published by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (MA EOE), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Diseases Control (CDC). References and best practice documents can be found at the end of this document.

Cleaning vs. disinfecting

To prevent spread of infection, it is important to both clean AND disinfect

- **Cleaning** with soap and water removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surface; lowers risk of spreading infection
- **Disinfecting** kills germs on surfaces; further lowers risk of spreading infection

Procedures for cleaning a public restroom

Disposable gloves and mask must be worn • Always use disposable paper towels

To clean and disinfect:

1. Clean surfaces with a soap and water solution first
2. Allow the wet surface to air dry for 3-5 minutes, or manually dry surface with disposable towels. Dirt and water left on the surface will reduce the efficacy of the disinfectant.
3. Disinfect surface with bleach or an EPA-approved disinfectant
 - Disinfect frequently touched surfaces: doorknob, stall handles, toilet paper dispenser, paper towel dispenser, faucet, sink area
4. Remove gloves and wash hands with soap and water

Developing a cleaning plan and regular schedule

Develop plan → implement plan → maintain and revise your plan as needed

- Assign a person for each shift who will be responsible to maintain the cleaning schedule
- Conduct a top to bottom cleaning at least once a day
- Clean and sanitize commonly touched surfaces regularly throughout the day. Cleaning frequency should be increased when use volume is high.

Specific areas to clean

- **Commonly touched surfaces** must be cleaned and sanitized frequently. Minimum of hourly during high use periods. These include (but is not limited to) faucet handles, light switches, door latches and toilet seats.
- Clean **changing stations** by first using a paper towel to remove any debris. Spray disinfectant on all surfaces including interior and exterior sides of table. Allow the product to stand for at least 10 minutes for proper disinfection. Wipe using a paper towel, or clean cloth.
- Clean **sinks** by first using a paper towel to remove any hair or debris. Spray disinfectant inside of the sink and exterior surfaces including all metal handles, faucets, and the plumbing until covered. Allow the product to stand for at least 10 minutes for proper disinfection. Wipe using a paper towel, or clean cloth.
- Clean the **exterior of the soap dispensers** with a damp cloth and a disinfectant solution. If necessary, remove any buildup around the delivery area. Allow it to air dry.
- Damp wipe the outside of the **towel dispenser** or the hand dryer with a disinfectant solution and allow it to air dry.
- Damp wipe the outside of **toilet tissue dispensers** with disinfectant solution.

Disinfecting products

ALWAYS read directions on product before use • Keep out of reach of customers

Products that can be used when cleaning and disinfectant restrooms:

Bleach

- Make sure it can be used for disinfection and not expired
- To make a bleach solution, mix 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water OR mix 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- Leave on for at least 1 minute
- Bleach solutions will be effective for 24 hours

Commonly used disinfectants that can be used against COVID

- Clorox Multi Surface Cleaner + Bleach,
- Clorox Disinfecting Wipes,
- Clorox Commercial Solutions® Clorox® Disinfecting Spray,
- Lysol brand Heavy-Duty Cleaner Disinfectant Concentrate,
- Lysol Disinfectant Max Cover Mist,
- Lysol brand Clean & Fresh Multi-Surface Cleaner

70% alcohol solutions are also effective

Full list of disinfectants that can be used against COVID (need EPA registration number)
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

CAUTION

Do not mix bleach
or other cleaning
and disinfection
products together.
This can cause
fumes that could
be dangerous to
breathe in.

Helpful links

[MA Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices](https://www.mass.gov/doc/eea-covid-19-cleaning-of-restrooms-best-practices-5-18-20/download)

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/eea-covid-19-cleaning-of-restrooms-best-practices-5-18-20/download>

[CDC Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting Facility](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

[CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/ReOpening_America_Cleaning_Disinfection_Decision_Tool.pdf)

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/ReOpening_America_Cleaning_Disinfection_Decision_Tool.pdf

[CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

[EPA 6 Steps for Safe and Effective Disinfectant Use](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf)

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf>
