



INFECTION PREVENTION  
AND CONTROL

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# **CLEANING & DISINFECTION**

# Preventing the Spread of Germs

Source



Resident A uses  
a cane

Transmission



A staff member assists  
Resident B with the same  
cane, without proper  
disinfection

New Host



Resident B obtains  
germs from Resident  
A's cane

## Cleaning vs. Disinfection

**Cleaning** removes visible soil (i.e. organic or inorganic material) from objects and surfaces

**Disinfecting** removes most germs that cause infection or disease from surfaces

If a disinfectant product label does not specify that it can be used for disinfecting *and* cleaning, then surfaces must be cleaned prior to disinfection.



# Contact/Wet Times

- The time needed for a disinfectant to kill germs on a pre-cleaned surface
- The disinfectant must remain wet for long enough to kill the germs on the surface
- Refer to manufacturer's instructions for the contact/wet time to kill germs and required PPE
- Always perform hand hygiene after cleaning a surface, using disinfectant products, and removing gloves



# PPE Usage During Cleaning & Disinfection

Proper use of PPE is essential for preventing the spread of germs. PPE is needed for certain cleaning and disinfection products.

The Safety Data Sheet (SDS), manufacturer's instructions, facility chemical usage and safety steps provide additional information on PPE use.

## **Choose PPE Based On:**

- What chemicals will be used to clean the room, object, etc.
- What type of infection prevention precautions are in place for the resident

# Reading the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Label

## *The Product Label Will Contain the Following Information:*

- What germs the product can eliminate:
  - Viruses
  - Bacteria (e.g. TB)
  - Fungus
  - Spores (e.g. C. difficile)
- Instructions for use
- Contact/wet time
- Surfaces for use

## Key Notes:

- Not all products work the same
- Use EPA approved disinfectants, other products (i.e. homemade cleaners, etc.) are not suitable for healthcare use
- Follow your facility's disinfectant & cleaning policy

# Cleaning & Disinfecting Reusable Items



A variety of equipment can be used for more than one resident.

It is essential that these items are cleaned and disinfected – according to the manufacturer’s instructions – after each resident’s use.



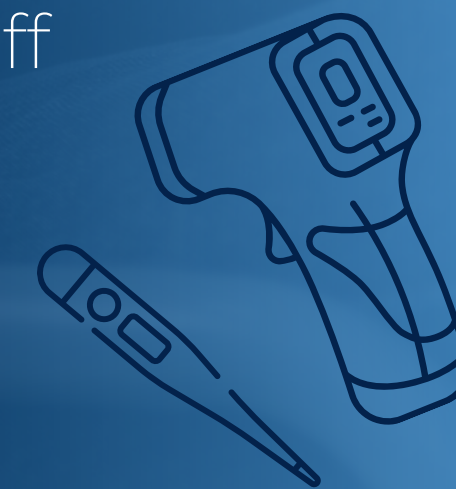
## Examples of Reusable Items:

Wheelchair



Walker

Blood Pressure Cuff



Thermometer

# Thank you!

Questions?



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