



*Specialist Report*

Cleaning and  
Disinfecting  
Vehicles



# Daily cleaning and disinfecting will help to minimize the spread of viruses and bacteria

## Definitions

Keeping employees safe, at all times, is of utmost importance. Daily cleaning and disinfecting will help to minimize the spread of viruses and bacteria that cause a number of diseases. These pathogens can live up to 72 hours on hard surfaces such as metal, plastic and glass.

**Cleaning** refers to removal of debris from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill pathogens, but can remove them. Cleaning should be done with soap or other detergents before disinfecting.

**Disinfecting** is the use of chemicals to kill pathogens on a surface. Done after cleaning, it further lowers the risk of spreading infection. Disinfecting is done with approved disinfecting solutions.

When using disinfectants, it is of critical importance to follow the label directions, including **contact time** (the amount of time a surface should be visibly wet from the disinfectant). This allows for safe and effective use.

## Appropriate disinfectants

The CDC and the EPA keep updated lists of their recommendations.

Commonly available disinfecting sprays and wipes are appropriate; look for items containing 'ethanol alcohol 40' or 'benzyl ammonium chloride.'

A disinfectant can also be made from a bleach solution using 1/3 cup of bleach per gallon of water. If mixing your own solution, be sure you are not in an enclosed area such as a vehicle cab.

Disinfecting wipes and sprays that contain 'terpene hydrocarbon/d-limonene' or 'sodium hypochlorite' are not recommended, nor are products dispersed by a pressurized aerosol container; use sprays and/or wipes instead.

When cleaning and disinfecting, employees should wash their hands before and after, as well as wear personal protective equipment such as gloves, face mask and eye protection. Gloves and any cleaning materials, such as disposable rags or paper towels, should be discarded in a leak-proof trash bag after disinfecting.

Employees must use caution when mixing any concentrated cleaning products. All cleaning products, especially if mixed or moved into secondary containers, must be properly labeled to ensure safe handling.

## Areas of focus

At the beginning and end of each shift, the following areas should be cleaned and disinfected:

- Door handles and grab bars
- Interior door handle and surrounding surfaces
- Instrument panel
- Gear shift
- Any control knobs (including radio, window and temperature controls)
- Seat adjustment knobs
- Seat belt and buckles
- Ignition key
- Steering wheel

- Steering column controls (turn signal, windshield wiper, etc.)
- Upfitter switches
- Exposed dashboard surfaces
- Cup holders
- Seat covers
- Cabinet/toolbox handles
- Fire extinguishers
- First aid kit
- Hood latches
- Dip sticks
- Equipment controls (compressor, back up camera, cranes, inverter, compressor, liftgate, snowplow, etc.).
- Specialty equipment (compressor hoses, trailer connectors, etc.)

## Extraordinary times

During times of heightened sickness, such as flu season, or during a pandemic, vehicle cleaning and disinfecting should be performed more frequently.

Additionally, whenever possible, employees should limit sharing vehicles and plan their work days accordingly.

Shift changes should be scheduled to give ample time for cleaning and disinfecting, while also maintaining social distancing with changing personnel.

If sharing a vehicle cannot be avoided, employees should utilize personal protective equipment and social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

We hope you found this information useful. If you do have any questions about this, please reach out to one of our Specialists and please continue to stay safe.

**When using disinfectants, it is of critical importance to follow the label directions**

# Vehicle Disinfecting Checklist

- Wash hands
  
- Put on gloves, face mask and eye protection
  
- Sanitize surfaces:
  - Door handles
  - Grab bars
  - Interior door handle and surrounding surfaces
  - Instrument panel
  - Gear shift
  - Control knobs:
    - Radio
    - Window
    - Temperature
  - Seat adjustment knobs
  - Seat belt and buckles
  - Ignition key
  - Steering wheel
  - Steering column controls:
    - Turn signal
    - Windshield wiper
    - Steering column adjustment controls
  - Upfitter switches
  - Exposed dashboard surfaces
  - Cup holders
  - Seat covers
  - Cabinet/toolbox handles
  - Fire extinguishers
  - First aid kit
  - Hood latches
  - Dip sticks
  - Equipment controls (compressor, cranes, inverter, compressor, liftgate, snowplow, etc.).
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    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Specialty equipment (compressor hoses, trailer connectors, etc.)
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    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Dispose of gloves and cleaning materials in a leak-proof bag
  
- Wash hands