



Solutions for a Cleaner Environment



How Long Do Coronaviruses Survive on Surfaces?

The following information is from WebMD Medical Reference Reviewed by Hansa D. Bhargava, MD on 3/23/2020
This is a guide on how long coronaviruses, the family of viruses that includes the one that causes COVID-19, can live on common surfaces. Keep in mind that researchers still have a lot to learn about the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and this is not to say that COVID-19 necessarily survives in the same ways (see back side).



METAL

*Examples: doorknobs,
jewelry, silverware*
5 DAYS



WOOD

*Examples: furniture,
decking*
4 DAYS



PLASTIC

*Examples: packaging,
water bottles, bus seats*
2 - 3 DAYS



STEEL

*Examples: refrigerators,
pots & pans, sinks*
2 - 3 DAYS



CARDBOARD

*Examples: shipping
boxes*
24 HOURS



COPPER

*Examples: pennies,
teakettles, cookware*
4 HOURS



ALUMINUM

*Examples: soda cans,
tin foil, water bottles*
2 - 8 HOURS



GLASS

*Examples: glasses,
mirrors, windows*
UP TO 5 DAYS



CERAMICS

*Examples: dishes,
pottery, mugs, sinks*
5 DAYS



PAPER

*Varies considerably
from a few minutes to
up to 5 days*



FOOD & WATER

Does not seem to spread via food. Follow good practices - wash produce, wash hands. People with weakened immune systems may want to buy frozen or canned goods as a precaution. It has not been found in drinking water & if it were, treatments would take care of it.

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 mainly spreads from person to person meaning an infected person spreads the disease by coughing, sneezing or otherwise sending droplets containing the virus into the air. A healthy person then breathes those droplets in and becomes infected. Another possible way to get infected is by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. **This is why it is being stressed to disinfect surfaces regularly, wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) it is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses writing that “studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions.”

Proper Disinfecting

Read any disinfectant label thoroughly before use. Not all disinfectants are created equally and the efficacy may vary depending on what bacteria you're trying to kill. Efficacy sheets can be acquired from the manufacturer upon request. Also found on the label are dwell times. Sometimes known as contact time, this is the amount of time that a surface must remain wet in order for certain organisms to be killed. Dwell times vary from under a minute to ten minutes. They should be followed precisely to avoid outbreaks of disease.

High touch surfaces should be disinfected at least once daily in homes where no one is sick. A disinfecting routine should be developed in work environments with multiple people where high touch surfaces are disinfected several times throughout the day depending on conditions. These areas include tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, phones, keyboards, toilets, sinks etc..

The American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Center for Biocide Chemistries (CBC) has compiled a list of products that have been pre-approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use during the COVID-19 outbreak. The EPA Registration numbers 1839-83 ([TB-Quat](#)), 10324-154 ([DC-7](#) & [Wintafect](#)) and 10324-63 ([Sanni-Rinse](#)), when used according to label directions for coronavirus, have been added to the EPA-registered disinfectant products that have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.



Additionally, we manufacture a variety of other disinfectants that kill similar viruses such as SARS associated Coronavirus or Human Coronavirus when used in accordance to label directions:

- [Veterinarian's Choice – Veterinary Disinfectant](#)

PLEASE NOTE: This list includes ALCO manufactured products only. Please contact your account manager for more solutions.

Practice Proper Hand Hygiene

1. Rinse your hands of any dirt or grease before adding soap
2. Apply soap and rub hands together making sure to get every area of your hands, fingers and wrists
3. Hum the tune of “Happy Birthday” twice to ensure you are washing for at least 20 seconds
4. Rinse off all the soap
5. Dry - a very important step to removing germs!
6. If possible, avoid recontamination - Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet and when touching the door handle to leave the restroom.

If no soap or water is available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Avoid Touching Your Face with Unwashed Hands

If you touch a surface with pathogenic bacteria present and then touch our mouth, nose or eyes you risk contaminating yourself.



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