

# Disinfecting Fabric Recommendations

*from Absecon Mills*

## CLEANING VS. DISINFECTING

It's important to note that cleaning a surface, such as removing dirt and particles, is not the same thing as disinfecting a surface that kills viruses and bacteria. Our fabrics have been designed for periodic cleaning (a few times per year), so please take care to follow all manufacturers instructions carefully, especially giving care to not oversaturate the fabric if choosing to clean/disinfect daily.

**CLEANING** refers to the removal of dirt and impurities including germs from surfaces. Often, you need to clean a surface with soap and water or another cleaning solution BEFORE you can effectively disinfect the surface. Cleaning alone does not kill germs, but by removing them, it decreases the number of germs and therefore any risk of spreading infection.

**DISINFECTING** kills germs on surfaces. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but killing germs remaining on a surface after cleaning further reduce any risk of spreading infection.

*Because SARS-CoV-2 is a new virus, it is not readily available for use in commercial laboratory testing to determine if a certain disinfectant product is effective at killing the virus. However, the following list of surface disinfectants has shown effectiveness against another type of human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19*

## DISINFECTANT REFERENCE CHART

	Hydrogen Peroxide Products <b>(RECOMMENDED CHOICE)</b>	Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Commonly referred to as "QUATS")	Sodium Hypochlorite (5.25% Bleach Concentrate) (3% solution = 1/3 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water)
EPA Toxicity Level	Category IV - non-toxic	Category III - slightly toxic	Category 1 - Highly toxic
Pre-cleaning Requirement	Product specific. Some products registered as one step disinfectants. Best practices advise pre-cleaning of surfaces.	Product specific. Some products registered as one step disinfectants. Best practices advise pre-cleaning of surfaces.	Surfaces must be pre-cleaned prior to disinfecting.
Storage	Stable in storage. Keep out of sunlight and store in a dark container.	Stable in storage.	For disinfecting purposes, bleach should not be stored for more than 3 months. When mixed with water to create a 3% solution, the solution is only effective as a disinfectant for 24 hours.
Dwell Time	1 - 10 minute dwell time. Read label for specific recommended dwell times. No rinsing required.	Generally a 10 minute dwell time. Read label for specific recommended dwell times. Wipe down thoroughly with a clean damp cloth..	5 - 10 minute dwell time. Read label for specific recommended dwell times. Wipe down thoroughly with a clean damp cloth..
Health Effects	None. The hydrogen peroxide denatures and disseminates into oxygen and water within minutes, leaving no residue or by-products.	May cause skin and respiratory irritation.	Mixing with ammonia, ammonium quaternary compounds and other acidic products can create a poisonous gas.  Corrosive to eyes and skin, and is a respiratory irritant.
Exposure Controls	No special requirements. Regular ventilation is adequate <i>unless using commercial fogging equipment where PPE is recommended.</i>	Regular ventilation is adequate <i>unless using commercial fogging equipment where PPE is recommended.</i>	Requires PPE and/or increased ventilation.
Advantages	Readily available and non-corrosive in diluted form. No rinsing required and some products are odorless.	Readily available.	Inexpensive and easy to purchase.
Example Products	Clorox® Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant Spray Oxivir® 1 TRU Spray Oxivir® TB Liquid Concentrate OxyCide™ Daily Disinfectant Cleaner	Ascepticare™ CaviCide™ CaviCide 1™ Lysol's Clean & Fresh Multi-Surface Cleaner Virex II 256	3% bleach solution using 1/3 cup 5.25% bleach concentrate to 1 gallon of water.
Fabric Choice (Please test in an inconspicuous area of fabric first)	Safe for all fabrics when used properly according to manufacturers instructions and is <u>safe for all porous surfaces such as upholstery, carpets and drapery.</u>	Safe for all fabrics when used properly according to manufacturers instructions, <u>however, these disinfectants are mostly utilized for hard surfaces.</u>	Should only be used on our 100% Marquésa Lana™ polyolefin fabrics., such as Sherpa & Shire, Donovan, Foundation, Gadget, Jetta, Muirios, and Primary. <u>This method of disinfecting is mostly utilized for hard surfaces.</u>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO NOT OVERSATURATE THE FABRIC DURING APPLICATION OF CHOSEN PRODUCT. IF SPRAYING, A FINE MIST IS ADEQUATE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF MOISTURE APPLIED TO THE SURFACE OF THE FABRIC.**

Have more questions? Please email us at [info@absecon.com](mailto:info@absecon.com).