



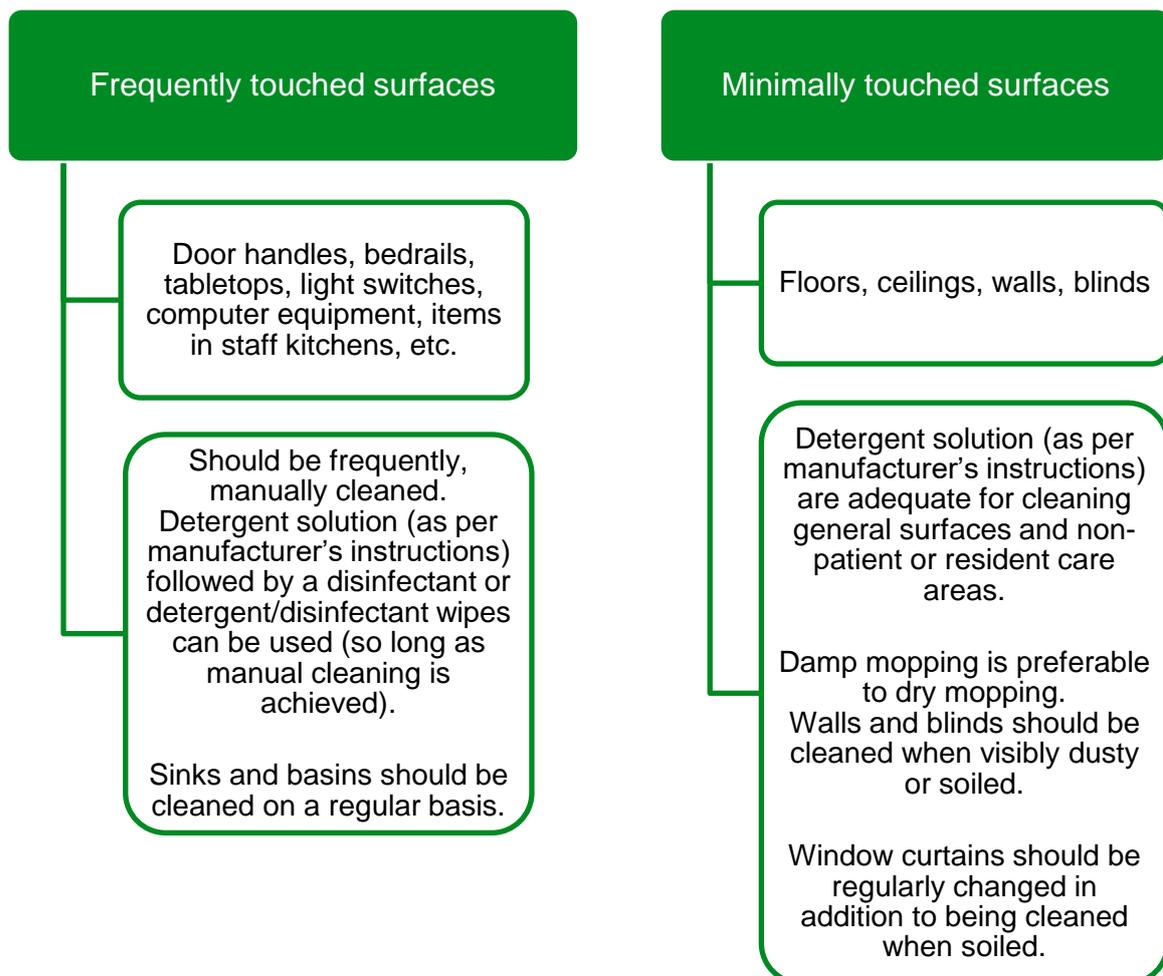
Information about routine environmental cleaning and disinfection in the community

30 September 2020

The Infection Control Expert Group developed this advice, and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee endorsed it. For more guidance on infection prevention and control during the COVID-19 pandemic, see the Department of Health website.

The requirements for routine environmental cleaning can be divided into two groups¹:

Routine environmental cleaning and disinfection



¹ Adapted from Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare, Canberra: National Health and Medical Research Council (2019).

The length of time the virus that causes COVID-19 can survive on inanimate surfaces varies depending on several factors. These include the amount of contaminated body fluid (e.g. respiratory droplets) or soiling present, the surface material (or properties), and environmental temperature and humidity.

Cleaning and disinfection readily inactivates the virus on inanimate surfaces. It is good practice to routinely clean surfaces as follows:

- Clean frequently touched surfaces with detergent solution followed by a disinfectant (see diagram above).
- Clean general surfaces and fittings when visibly dirty and straight after any spillage.

Cleaning is an essential part of disinfection because dirt and grime can inactivate many disinfectants. Cleaning is the manual action using a detergent and warm water to reduce the amount of dirt which allows the disinfectant to work. Removal of germs requires thorough cleaning followed by disinfection or use of a detergent/disinfection wipe.

For a disinfectant solution to be effective, it must be made and applied in line with the manufacturer's instructions².

Social contact environments

Social contact environments include (but are not limited to), transport vehicles, shopping centres, public office areas and private businesses. You can minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in these settings through a good standard of general hygiene. This includes:

- Promoting cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene.
- Frequently cleaning frequently touched hard surfaces with detergent/disinfectant solution/wipe.
- Providing adequate alcohol-based hand rub (sanitiser) for staff and consumers to use. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser stations should be available, especially in areas where food is on display and frequent touching of produce occurs.
- Training staff on use of alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Consider signs to ask shoppers to only touch what they intend to purchase.

- Setting vehicle air-conditioning to fresh air



More information

You can find out more about how to stop the spread of COVID-19 on the [Department of Health website](#).

For the latest advice, information and resources, go to www.health.gov.au

Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you require translating or interpreting services, call 131 450.

The phone number of each state or territory public health agency is available at www.health.gov.au/state-territory-contacts

If you have concerns about your health, speak to a doctor.

² See TGA site: <https://www.tga.gov.au/disinfectants-use-against-covid-19-artg-legal-supply-australia>