



Disinfecting Your Medical Cart

Cleaning versus Disinfecting

The first thing to remember is that cleaning is different from disinfecting. By cleaning, germs and dirt are removed from surfaces, but germs are not killed. Removing them only decreases the number of germs and helps to reduce the risk of spreading infections.

On the other hand, by disinfecting your medical cart you kill viruses and bacteria on surfaces by using chemical products. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces. Killing viruses and bacteria on the surface after cleaning has been done can further decrease the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

With this in mind, you need to conduct regular cleaning of your medical cart, and then disinfect it using an appropriate disinfecting product for the type of surface.



CAUTION: When cleaning and disinfecting, individuals should wear disposable gloves compatible with the products being used as well as any other PPE required according to the cleaning and disinfecting product manufacturer's instructions.



For Frequently Touched Surfaces

For frequently touched surfaces, such as the push handle and drawer handles, remove visible dirt, then disinfect using alcohol-based wipes containing at least 70% alcohol.

For Hard Non-Porous Surfaces

For hard non-porous surfaces such as the cart body, drawer front, and ABS countertop, clean with a mild detergent or soap and water if the surfaces are visibly dirty, before disinfectant application.

- After cleaning, use any of the products contained on the EPA's List L, List N, or List Q for products to use against the Ebola virus, disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19), or disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens that are suitable for hard non-porous surfaces. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for concentration, application method, and contact time for all cleaning and disinfection products. Click on the links below to proceed to the EPA's websites to search and view the lists.

[List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[List L: Disinfectants for use Against Ebola Virus](#)

[List Q: Disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens \(EVPs\)](#)

- Diluted household bleach solutions (prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection) if appropriate for the surface. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Make sure the product is not past its expiration date.



IMPORTANT! Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.

- Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol.

For Soft or Porous Surfaces

For soft or porous surfaces such as the straps on the Oxygen tank holder and defibrillator shelf, clean them with the appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.

- After cleaning, use any of the products contained on the EPA's List L, List N, or List Q that are suitable for porous surfaces. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for concentration, application method, and contact time for all cleaning and disinfection products. Click on the links above in the **For Hard Non-Porous Surfaces** paragraph to view the lists.
- Disinfect with wipes that contain at least a 70% alcohol solution.