

Cleaning/Disinfecting/Sanitizing Awareness

With the current recommendations for increased cleaning/disinfecting/sanitizing it is important to remember that even when chemicals are used safely, their use can cause discomfort or health effects especially in persons who have respiratory or chemical sensitivity concerns. When choosing chemicals and a cleaning strategy, some things to consider are:

- When possible, handwashing and cleaning surfaces with soap and water is the first option. Also cleaning with detergent/soap and water routinely will help prevent a chemical residue buildup.
- Is there a less hazardous product available? Choose a product with the EPA Safer Choice Label. Check out [EPA' Safer Choice Label](#) web page for a full list of qualified products.



- Sprays create a fine mist which can irritate your lungs so make sure that you are using sprays in a well-ventilated area. Alternatively, determine if you can apply the product with a cloth, in which case you may need to wear gloves.
- If only general information such as “wear gloves” is provided on the product label, have you contacted the product manufacturer to see if they can provide additional information on the specific type of glove, such as nitrile or latex, that you can wear when using their product?
- Alternatively, if you know the active ingredient, you can search for PPE and other health and safety information on [New Jersey Right To Know Fact Sheets for Listed Chemical Substances](#)
- The product will only be effective if it remains on the surface for the required contact time. The product label will provide the required contact time.
- Have employees been trained on how to use the product safely?
- Is there a process for employees to report concerns or health effects from using the products?
- Have you recently reviewed cleaning/disinfecting/sanitizing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes](#) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services: [DHS Cleaning and Disinfecting after a confirmed COVID-19 case](#) to see whether guidelines have changed?

Additional Resources:

- [EPA Safer Choice Label](#)
- [University of Washington Safer Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Strategies](#)
- [Occupational Health Watch - May 2020 - Focus On Asthma-Safer Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)