



## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR THE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF PUBLIC PLACES (COVID-19)**

### **Introduction**

The public places referred to in these guidelines include spaces not privately owned, that are utilized by the general public for leisure, commute, commerce and general occupation. Public places include community streets, sidewalks, public facilities (parks, commuter facilities) scenic sites, architectural structures, and environmental resources (beaches, water attraction parks water fronts), ports and other similar spaces utilized by the general public.

These guidelines are prepared in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and support owners and operators of public spaces and facilities, with special consideration for general cleaning and disinfection. Increased daily cleaning and disinfection of common areas utilized by the public is one of the primary strategies to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Increased daily cleaning and disinfection of common areas utilized by the public is one of the primary strategies to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

### **A. Definitions**

#### **1. General Cleaning**

Cleaning refers to the removal of visible dirt, grime and impurities. The method used to achieve a clean surface, is the application of water and detergent only. In other instances, pressure washing of surfaces may be required to remove visible dirt and debris.

Cleaning does not kill germs but helps to remove them from surfaces.

## 2. Disinfection

Disinfection refers to the use of chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This is most effective after surfaces are cleaned. Both steps are important to reduce the spread of infection.

### B. Considerations for Cleaning and Disinfection

The following are procedures for common public spaces:

- Roadways, walkways, drains -
  - all debris (accumulated material) are to be removed by sweeping or other means
  - pressure wash with detergent and water
  - apply disinfection solution (as outlined in Section C) and allow to air dryCommercially prepared disinfectants may also be used in this process, ensuring all instructions are followed.
- Garbage receptacles (bins and skips) should be enclosed, emptied and cleaned
- Regular refuse collection (twice weekly) is recommended; followed by pressure washing of the area.
- Frequently touched areas/ surfaces (for example: door knobs, light switches, bus/taxi sheds, rails, staff rooms, desktops, washrooms and other high touch surfaces), should be cleaned at least four (4) times daily with a soap and water solution.

### C. Preparing a bleach solution by mixing

**Table 1: Disinfection Solution Guide**

Water	Bleach Strength 5.25% (Household Bleach)	Bleach Strength 8.25% (Industrial Bleach)
1 Gallon	3 Tablespoons	2 Tablespoons
55 Gallon	165 Tablespoons or 2.4 litres (0.64 gallons)	110 Tablespoons or 1.63 Litres (0.43 gallons)
500 gallon	1,500 Tablespoons or 22 litres (5.87 gallons)	1,000 Tablespoon or 14.79 Litres (3.91 gallons)

### D. Disinfection Preparation and Precautionary Tips

- The bleach solution should be prepared in a well-ventilated area as per manufacturers instruction The necessary personal protective equipment - industrial gloves and goggles are to be worn in the preparation of the solution.
- All solutions made in bulk and stored in bottles or containers should be labelled identifying the bleach solution concentration ratio as well as the date mixed.

### E. General Precautions

Be sure to take the appropriate precautions when using chemicals for cleaning and disinfecting:

- Wear industrial gloves while cleaning;
- Use chemicals in a well-ventilated area;
- Never mix cleaning chemicals, this may create hazardous gases;
- Prevent chemical contact with skin and clothing;
- Wear goggles and face shields when mixing chemicals;
- Bleach solutions should not be stored but prepared and used immediately.



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