

Damp Wiping



PURPOSE:

To remove dirt and kill germs from surfaces in the health facility

MATERIALS:

- Disposable gloves
- If needed:
 - Disposable gown
 - Disposable mask with eye protection
- Prepared Cleaner/Disinfectant solution in cleaning bucket
- Container for dirty cloths (if using reusable cleaning cloths)
- Cleaning cloths (reusable or disposable)



CLEANING STEPS

1



Do a Risk Assessment

- Determine risk of exposure to germs and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for the task.
- Wear the correct PPE to safely do the job.

2



- Prepare fresh Cleaner/ Disinfectant solution at the start of each shift.
- Wet the cleaning cloth in the Cleaner/ Disinfectant solution:
 - Squeeze the cleaning cloth so that it is wet but not dripping
 - Fold the cleaning cloth once or twice so that you have 2 clean sides to use.

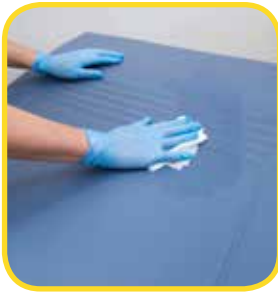
3



- Wipe with the cleaning cloth in the folded position.
- Never damp wipe with the cleaning cloth bunched up as this will dirty both sides of the cloth.
- Avoid using a back and forth motion to prevent the cloth picking up dirt going one way and then dropping it off on the way back.
- If using Cleaner/Disinfectant solution in a spray bottle, spray directly on the cleaning cloth.



4



- Unless a surface is very dirty, wiping each part of the surface ONCE is enough.
- Overlap your passes by 2-5 cm (1-2 inches) so that all areas are cleaned.

5



- Turn the folded cloth over as you damp wipe:
 - One surface for each major item in the room is a good guideline
 - Leave surfaces visibly WET to let the Cleaner/Disinfectant do its work in getting rid of germs.

6



- No double dipping into the clean solution container:
 - Never put used cleaning cloths back into the Cleaner/Disinfectant solution while damp wiping. This will help reduce germs in the cleaning solution and keep the solution doing its job.

7



- Change cleaning cloths as often as needed including when:
 - Cleaning cloth is no longer damp enough to leave surfaces wet
 - Both sides of a cloth have been used.

Reusable Cloths:

- Put used cleaning cloths into the container for dirty cloths so they can be laundered later.

Disposable Cloths:

- Put used cleaning cloths into garbage can immediately after you finish using them.



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• The Cleaner/Disinfectant solution in the cleaning bucket MUST be changed after cleaning:

- Any heavily soiled or dirty area
- A spill of the blood or body fluids (vomit or feces)
- Emergency/Trauma Room
- Utility Room
- Reprocessing (sterilization) area
- 4 rooms
- When the solution is visibly dirty or cloudy or has a bad smell.

9



- After finishing a room, remove gloves and other PPE and put them in the garbage before going to another room/area.
- Do hand hygiene.

10



• Cleaning buckets need to be cleaned with Cleaner/Disinfectant solution at the end of the shift.

Reusable Cloths:

• All dirty cloths must be laundered at the end of each shift, and stored clean and dry.

