



**CLARK COUNTY**  
WASHINGTON

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



# HEALTHY CLASSROOM CLEANING

## **Kids are more vulnerable to chemical exposures.**

Many common cleaning products have ingredients that can harm health, especially the lungs. Choosing healthy classroom cleaning strategies can:

- Lower absenteeism
- Increase productivity
- Improve indoor air quality
- Reduce asthma and allergy triggers

## **Soap and water can get the job done!**

Soapy water is sufficient at removing most germs on surfaces, including coronavirus! Soap works by breaking up the dirt, oil and grease on surfaces that contain germs and makes them easy to rinse away with water.

## **When your classroom needs cleaning:**

- 1** Remove unnecessary items from counters and surfaces for easy cleanability
- 2** Make a safe and effective cleaning mixture by mixing 1 tsp fragrance-free, castile or dish soap in a spray bottle filled with water (anti-bacterial soap is not needed or recommended)
- 3** Spray on surface and scrub with paper towels or a clean microfiber cloth
- 4** Rinse with water and wipe dry with a clean rag to remove any soap residue

### Remember, the strong survive!

For high-touch surfaces, or rooms with a known illness exposure, sanitizing and disinfecting may be necessary. Keep in mind, improper use of sanitizers and disinfectants can lead to germs that are stronger and harder to kill. Most chemical sanitizers and disinfectants, including those on wipes, need to stay wet on surfaces for up to ten minutes in order to be effective!

When disinfecting is needed, keep in mind:

- Only use sanitizing and disinfecting products provided by the school
- Store all sanitizing and disinfecting chemicals out of reach of children, such as locked or in a high cabinet
- Sanitizing and disinfecting should only be completed by trained staff, such as custodial and facility management staff or teachers who have received training
- Check label for personal safety precautions, such as glove use and eye protection
- Use as directed, including cleaning the surface first and following the outlined time the surface should remain wet
- Do not use when children are in the room

### What about disinfectant wipes?

Common household disinfectant wipes should not be used in schools as they:

- May cause allergic reactions
- May contain chemicals that can trigger asthma
- May contain fragrance chemicals that can interrupt the endocrine system
- Should not be used when children are present



### Need safe cleaning supplies for your classroom?

Contact Clark County Green Schools to receive a free Classroom Green Cleaning Kit to include:

- Microfiber cloths
- Spray bottle with castile soap and water
- Classroom cleaning signs

Reach out to [info@clarkgreenschools.org](mailto:info@clarkgreenschools.org) for a kit and more information.

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### *You can also spread the education (not the germs) throughout your school!*

Help other teachers in your school clean their classrooms more safely. You could even earn the EarthGen (formerly Washington Green Schools) certification for Healthy School Buildings. <https://earthgenwa.org/school-certification/>

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