

Here at Charlotte Products, we continue to get many questions from our end users about COVID-19 and how to use our products to prevent infection outbreaks in buildings. We've answered some of those frequently asked questions here. If you have any specific questions, please contact an expert at Charlotte Products by emailing experts@charlotteproducts.com.

My products are registered as effective against COVID-19. What more do I need to do?

The truth is that coronaviruses are generally easy to kill. Having a product that is registered effective against COVID-19 is a good start, but it is just a baseline. You will need to develop a program that includes increased cleaning frequency, careful disinfection of high-touch areas, physical distancing measures and handwashing protocol. Document this program and make sure that everyone on your cleaning staff is trained on it. Changing a product isn't going to be enough to ensure the building is safe.

Do I really need to clean everything more often?

Yes you do. COVID-19 is airborne and it spreads inside buildings. Just because data shows that it is less likely to spread via surfaces does not mean you can take the chance and skip a cleaning. You need to have a higher cleaning frequency now, and that will continue into the foreseeable future.

How can I validate that my buildings are clean?

A visual check isn't enough. You need validation and measurement to prove to the public that your buildings are clean, and to ensure that they are clean. Validation is also an important aspect of training and employee morale. We recommend using PPM paper to test your products' dilution ratios as you are using them. ATP meters detect enzymes on surfaces, so they can be used to check that hard surfaces have been cleaned. New technologies like OptiSolve's Pathfinder and SAVI system can be used to take spatially specific photographs of surface contamination and integrate those results into data and reporting for a more robust form of cleaning validation.

How do I find time to clean more when I have fewer employees and less money?

Delivery methods can make a difference to meet demand for higher frequencies with less cleaning staff. We recommend using a pump-up sprayer with your cleaning and disinfectant products, which applies product five times faster than a trigger sprayer. We are seeing the widespread use of foggers, misters and electrostatic sprayers. While these may be faster in application, facilities must still ensure they follow the Five Critical Security Elements of Disinfection.

Does the delivery method matter if I am using a strong disinfectant product?

You must follow the Five Critical Security Elements of Disinfection, regardless of the delivery method of your product. These five critical steps are:

- Use a registered product
- Dilute properly
- Always pre-clean
- Respect the dwell time
- Use a potable rinse on food contact surfaces and toys

Should I be worried about using so many disinfectants so often?

The overuse of disinfectants is a big risk right now. Disinfectants have aggressive chemistry, meaning they can pose risks for human health and the environment. Here at Charlotte Products, we continue to emphasize the importance of safely removing organic matter and then sparingly, thoughtfully and carefully applying disinfectant and sanitizers to those high contact touch points.

Is it ok to use hand sanitizer in place of hand washing with soap and water?

Hand washing with soap and water will always be the best, most effective way to remove germs and grime for your hands and to stop the spread of infection. However, when a sink is not available, hand sanitizer can be an adequate alternative. Make sure you choose an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and be wary of certain sanitizers that have been recalled. There is a right way to use hand sanitizer. Many people don't realize that, according to the label of most alcohol-based hand sanitizers, you must thoroughly rub the sanitizer into your hands for at least 30 seconds, then allow it to dry.

What else should we be doing in our buildings besides increased cleaning frequencies to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Distancing, hand washing and masks are all going to be with us for a very long time. Physical distancing measures may include having cleaning staff perform tasks when the building is closed or staggering start times. Mask wearing should still be enforced while the public is not fully vaccinated, including children. Ventilation is also very important. Open windows whenever possible. Upgrading HVAC systems with high grade filters and looking into UV lights for HVAC systems are also sound investments in the health of your building. Vaccination is our most effective tool in the fight against COVID-19. The more you can encourage vaccination in your workers and building occupants, the better defense you will have against COVID-19 and all variants. Allow science to communicate accurate information.

For more information about COVID-19, including recommended products we offer that can be an important part of your infection control program, check out our Coronavirus Technical Bulletin.



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