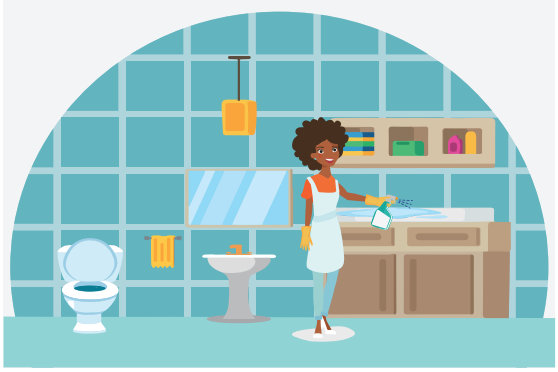
Step-by-Step Disinfecting for Child Care Programs

Disinfecting means to destroy almost all germs that could make a person sick. Disinfecting is for toileting areas and high-touch areas that collect lots of germs (bathroom faucets and counters, diaper changing tables, toilets, sinks used in toileting routines, drinking fountains, doorknobs). Choose an EPA registered disinfectant, and use the product according to the label directions. DO NOT USE DISINFECTANTS NEAR CHILDREN!

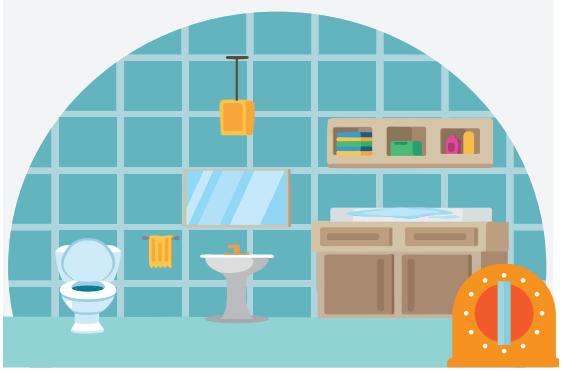
STEP 1 Put on gloves.

STEP 2 Pre-clean the surface with soap and water. Surfaces should be clean before applying a disinfectant.

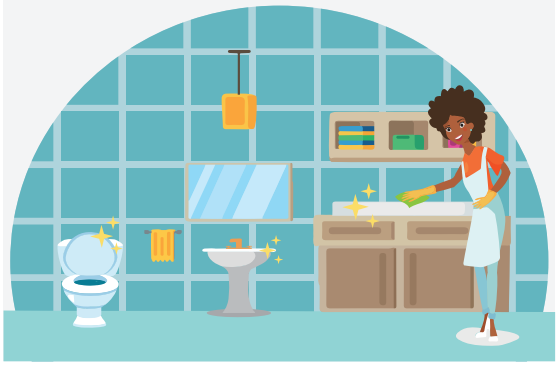
STEP 3 Apply the disinfectant. Spray away from people and provide ventilation.



STEP 4 Leave the surface wet for the appropriate contact (dwell) time stated on the product label. Set a timer to keep track of the time.



STEP 5 Allow the surface to air dry, or dry with a fresh paper towel or microfiber cloth.



Important note:
Some disinfectants are ready-to-use and some are meant to be diluted with water.

Always follow product label directions!

California Environmental Protection Agency dpr Department of Pesticide Regulation
California School & Child Care IPM
UCSF School of Nursing
California CCHP Childcare Health Program