Title 22 Standards for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting at California Child Care Centers

California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Pesticide Regulation

Keeping child care environments healthy starts with knowing the difference between three important steps: cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting—and when each is needed. **Cleaning** removes dirt, food residue, and visible messes from surfaces using soap and water or a general-purpose cleaner. **Sanitizing** reduces the number of germs on surfaces to levels considered safe by public health standards. **Disinfecting** kills germs on surfaces and is used when there's a higher risk of spreading illness.

This table shows areas in a child care center required to be cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected per California child care licensing regulations. If more stringent, "Best Practices" are included per Caring for Our Children (CFOC) National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Appendix K. The CFOC standards are not enforceable, and included only as a reference. Be sure to always follow child care licensing requirements.

Area	Process	Frequency	Code	Best Practice*, if more stringent
Food Areas				
Food areas (kitchen, food preparation and storage areas, equipment)	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101227 (a)(18),(20)	Clean and Sanitize tables and food preparation surfaces before and after each use. Clean and Sanitize countertops and food preparation appliances daily.
Dishes and utensils	Clean and Sanitize	After use	Title 22 §101227(a)(21)	N/A
Toilet Areas				
Toilets	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101239(e)(4)	Clean and disinfect daily
Potty Chairs	Clean and Disinfect	After use	Title 22 §101428(e)(2)	N/A
Hand washing sinks and faucets, bathing facilities	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101239(e)(4)	Clean and disinfect daily
Floors	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101238(a) and 101238.3(b)	Clean and disinfect daily
Sleeping Areas				
Napping Equipment	Clean and Disinfect	Weekly if soiled	Title 22 §101239.1(b)(4)	N/A
Sheets	Clean	Weekly if soiled	Title 22 §101239.1(c)(3)	N/A
Blankets	Clean or Change	If soiled	Title 22 §101239.1(c)(4)	Clean monthly
General Areas				
Entire center	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101238(a)	N/A
Floors (non-infant)	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101238.3(b)	Clean daily
Drinking fountains	Clean	Maintained	Title 22 §101239.2(a)	Clean and disinfect daily

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INFANT-SPECIFIC CARE

Area	Process	Frequency	Code	Best Practice*, if more stringent
Floors (not carpet)	Clean and Disinfect	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(1)	N/A
Carpeted floors and large rugs	Vaccum	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(2)	Clean monthly
	Clean	Every 6 months		
Small rugs	Vaccum or shack out	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(2)(A)	N/A
	Wash	Weekly		
Walls and partitions	Clean and Disinfect	Weekly	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(3)	N/A
Highchairs and feeding chairs	Clean and Disinfect	After use	Title 22 §101439(f)	N/A
Diaper changing table and pads	Clean and Disinfect	After use	Title 22 §101428(d)(7)	N/A
Diaper changing area (including walls, floors, dispensers, counter tops, sinks, drawers, and cabinets)	Clean and Disinfect	After use or if soiled	Title 22 §101428(d)(7)(B) and §101438.1(c)(4), (c)(5)	N/A
Diaper pails	Clean and Sanitize	Daily	Title 22 §101428(d)(3)(A)	Clean and disinfect daily
Linens (center-provided)	Clean and Sanitize	Daily or if soiled	Title 22 §101438.1(e)	N/A
Crib mattresses	Clean and Disinfect	Daily and when soiled or wet	Title 22§101439.1 (b)(6)(B)	N/A
Mouthed objects	Clean and Disinfect	Daily or more often if necessary	Title 22 §101438.1(d)	N/A

For more information, contact the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's Child Care IPM Program at ccipmlist@cdpr.ca.gov.