

## Environmental Cleaning

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Environmental surfaces in personal service settings include floors, walls and ceilings, as well as tables, chairs, massage/waxing beds or similar. Environmental cleaning and disinfection are performed to remove dirt and debris from surfaces, and to inactivate any disease-causing microorganisms that may be present. If environmental cleaning and disinfection are performed regularly and as needed (e.g., when surfaces are visibly soiled), this can reduce the potential for transmission of microorganisms that may lead to infections in clients or workers.

### Infection risks

Environmental surfaces in personal service settings may be contaminated directly by clients or operators (e.g., through contact with unclean hands) or indirectly by contact with contaminated instruments or tools (e.g., if these are placed on a surface while soiled). Once contaminated, environmental surfaces can act as a vehicle for microorganisms. These microorganisms can then be transferred onto the hands of workers (gloved or ungloved), to clients, or to equipment and instruments, potentially increasing the risk of infection.

### Additional considerations

#### General Principles for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

- Work areas are to be clean, well lit, well ventilated, and maintained in good repair.
- Work surfaces (where services are performed) are to be smooth and non-absorbent.
- Floors, walls, ceilings, fixtures and furniture are to be in good repair, easily cleanable, of a smooth and impermeable material and maintained in a sanitary condition.
- Surfaces are to be manually cleaned with friction to remove visible soil.
- Before using a disinfectant, operators are to ensure that the expiry date has not passed.
- Operators are to follow manufacturer's instructions regarding the contact time, proper dilution, handling, and storage of disinfectants, if provided.
- Operators are to follow Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions for the selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- All low-level disinfectants are to have either a drug identification number (DIN) or a natural product number (NPN) issued by Health Canada. An exception to this is bleach (undiluted/no additives) as it does not have a DIN or NPN.
- High-level disinfectants, alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR), and skin antiseptics are not to be used for the disinfection of environmental surfaces.
- If a disinfectant product is decanted into another container for more than one use (e.g., if diluted from concentrate), that container is to be clearly labelled with the name of the product, the expiry date, the instructions for its use, and any relevant safety precautions.
- Disinfectants are not to be topped up as this can result in contamination of the container and of the disinfectant solution.

- Disinfectant containers are not to be refilled unless these are intended for reuse. Reusable containers are to be cleaned, disinfected, and dried prior to refilling.
- Cleaning and disinfectant products are not to be applied by aerosol or trigger spray as this can cause products to be aerosolized, creating an occupational health and safety hazard.
- Disinfectant is to be applied by pouring the disinfectant directly onto the surface, wetting a clean cloth, or using a pre-saturated disinfectant wipe.
- Surfaces are to be rinsed following cleaning and/or disinfection to remove any residual detergent or disinfectant as per the manufacturer's instructions (if applicable).

The environmental surfaces in a PSS may be classified as low or high-risk. This classification is based on the potential for the surface to act as a vehicle for the transmission of microorganisms from blood and/or other body fluids.

### **Low-risk surfaces:**

- Are potentially less likely to be contaminated with or to come in contact with blood and/or other body fluids or non-intact skin (e.g., manicure tables or massage/waxing beds covered with a single-use towel or other protective cover, hairdressing/barbering chairs).
- Are to be cleaned and low-level disinfected immediately when visibly soiled and at least once per day.

### **High-risk surfaces:**

- Are potentially more likely to be contaminated with or to come in contact with blood and/or other body fluids or non-intact skin (e.g., tattoo tables or other tables/beds/chairs where invasive procedures are carried out, manicure/pedicure tables/chairs not covered with a single-use towel or other protective cover).
- Are to be cleaned and low-level disinfected between clients and when visibly soiled.

If protective covers are used, these are to be changed after each client, and the surface underneath cleaned and disinfected with a low-level disinfectant at the end of each day. However, if the surface under the protective cover becomes visibly soiled or contaminated, the surface is to be cleaned and disinfected right away.

### **Sources:**

1. Health Protection and Promotion Act. Ontario Regulation 136/18 Personal Service Settings. Cited [2019 August 11] Available at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/180136#BK7>
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Guide to infection prevention and control in personal service settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Cited [2019 August 11] Available at: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/guide-ipac-personal-service-settings.pdf?la=en>
3. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for environmental cleaning for prevention and control of infections in all health care settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. [cited 2019 September 24]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>
4. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Personal Service Settings Guideline, 2019. Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2019 [cited 2019 September 24]. Available from: [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph\\_standards/docs/protocols\\_guidelines/Personal\\_Service\\_Settings\\_Guideline\\_2019\\_en.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Personal_Service_Settings_Guideline_2019_en.pdf)

*This fact sheet is based on PSS best practice recommendations, current reprocessing standards and legislation. It is not an inclusive list of all requirements. Operators are responsible to ensure that all services are offered according to local requirements, best practices and legislation.*