

COVID-19 FACT SHEET

NSW RFS Site and Appliance Cleaning

Principles

- Cleaning is an essential part of disinfection of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions, which include the type of surface and the temperature or humidity of the environment. (World Health Organization).
- Risk minimisation includes the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing (PPE/PPC) and use of appropriate cleaning techniques and products.
- Handwashing remains the primary prevention for the spread of COVID-19. It must be done properly with soap and water. When soap and water are not available, the next best option is to use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

Actions and Advice

- There are three (3) TYPES OF CLEANING to be undertaken for NSW RFS sites and appliances

| Cleaning Type | Description | Level of Risk |
|---------------|--|--|
| General | Occurs on a regular basis to minimise COVID-19 exposure or spread, but there is no specific known threat of COVID-19 at the site. | Lower risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 or other respiratory disease. |
| Preventative | Occurs when a person at the site has displayed flu-like symptoms and is going home to see a medical professional. | Medium risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 or other respiratory disease. |
| Targeted | Occurs when a person at the site has a confirmed positive test for COVID-19, or is diagnosed as having COVID-19 by a medical professional. | Higher risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19. |

- The PPE/PPC REQUIREMENTS for each cleaning type are outlined below.

| Cleaning Type | PPE | PPC |
|---------------|---|---|
| General | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disposable impermeable gloves (e.g. Nitrile) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Long sleeve shirt and long pants, delivering coverage from ankle to wrist ➤ Closed shoes, tie back long hair |
| Preventative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disposable impermeable gloves (e.g. Nitrile) ➤ Optional – Protective eyewear (i.e. clear safety glasses or NSW RFS smoke goggles) ➤ Optional – Disposable mask (e.g. surgical or NSW RFS standard issue) | |
| Targeted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disposable impermeable gloves (e.g. Nitrile) ➤ Protective eyewear (i.e. clear safety glasses or NSW RFS smoke goggles) ➤ Disposable mask (e.g. surgical or NSW RFS standard issue) ➤ Optional – asbestos type coveralls to be used over clothing and disposed of after use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two sets of clothing which include long sleeve shirt and long pants, delivering coverage from ankle to wrist. The second set provides a reserve to change into post cleaning. ➤ Closed shoes, tie back long hair |

- There are three (3) types of precautions for COVID-19 (Contact Precautions, Droplet Precautions, and Airborne Precautions).
- When cleaning, NSW RFS is using Contact Precautions, as there is no exposure to airborne or droplets.
NSW RFS issued mask and eye protection act as barriers to people inadvertently touching their face with contaminated hands and fingers, whether gloved or not. (Source: Environmental cleaning and disinfecting principles – Version 1 (10/03/2020) Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Australian Government Department of Health.)
- Note: Whilst P2 masks are suitable for cleaning, they should be reserved for fire related incidents where smoke particulates are present. NSW RFS provides disposable surgical masks for cleaning and general use at non fire related incidents and activities as required. Surgical masks and Disposable P2 masks are single use items and it is important that they are disposed of in general waste once they become used, damaged or contaminated.
- The CLEANING PRODUCTS required for all cleaning types are outlined below.
 - Buckets
 - Mops
 - Paper towels
 - Disposable cloths (e.g. Chux)
 - Cleaning product suitable for general cleaning of surfaces (e.g. Spray & Wipe or soapy water)
 - Disinfectant specific for germ sanitisation (e.g. Pine O Clean or Dettol)
 - Non-leak plastic bags (e.g. garbage bags).
- The CLEANING PROCESS for each cleaning type is described on the following pages.

Further Information

- Refer to NSW RFS Chemwatch for Safety Data Sheets of any chemical used for cleaning
- Read the cleaning product label and follow any specific instructions provided
- Department of Health 30 minute COVID-19 Training: <https://covid-19training.gov.au/>
- NSW RFS acknowledges the support and assistance of NSW Health in the development of this document.



For further information regarding COVID-19 Cleaning requirements, please contact Building Services Team on 8741 5555 or email Building.Services@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Type 1: General cleaning

All NSW RFS facilities require general cleaning on a regular basis (dependent on usage), involving existing cleaning methods plus a focus on disinfectant wiping of high use and touch point areas.

| Preparation | Task | Post cleaning |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wear minimum PPE and PPC required for cleaning type ➤ Gather cleaning equipment and products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare a non-leak plastic waste bag ➤ Cleaning of offices, stations, vehicles and boats requires a general clean of all surfaces with an appropriate cleaning product (as per current site procedure) ➤ This is to be followed by disinfectant cleaning of high touch point areas such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lifts, hand rails, door handles, light switches, phones, kitchens, toilets, arms of chairs ➤ Vehicles and boats - clean steering wheels, dash, control panels, hand rails, access doors, lockers, equipment handles, pump controls, flat surfaces in the cab and glass ➤ Place any disposable cleaning cloths, paper towel, wipes etc. into the waste bag | <p>Do the following, in order</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove disposable gloves (without touching outside of gloves with bare hands) and place into the waste bag, and tie the bag 2. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser 3. Any waste in the tied waste bag can be placed into the normal waste disposal receptacle 4. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser 5. Restock or order replacement cleaning supplies |

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Type 2: Preventative cleaning

This type of cleaning occurs when a person at the site has displayed flu-like symptoms and is going to see a medical professional. It involves the immediate area and surrounding 2 metres from where the person had been working.

| Preparation | Task | Post cleaning |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wear minimum PPE and PPC required for cleaning type ➤ Gather cleaning equipment and products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare a non-leak plastic waste bag <u>and</u> a separate non-leak plastic cleaning bag (if using protective eyewear) ➤ Clean the immediate area and surrounding 2 metres from where the person had been coughing and/or sneezing or had been working (e.g. workstation) with an appropriate cleaning product ➤ This is to be followed by disinfectant cleaning of the same areas leaving it to dry on surfaces ➤ Finally, disinfect high touch point areas such as, but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lifts, hand rails, door handles, light switches, phones, kitchens, toilets, arms of chairs ➤ Vehicles and boats - clean steering wheels, dash, control panels, hand rails, access doors, lockers, equipment handles, pump controls, flat surfaces in the cab and glass ➤ Place any disposable cleaning cloths, paper towel, wipes etc. into the waste bag | <p>Do the following, in order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove disposable gloves (without touching outside of gloves with bare hands) and place into waste bag, and tie the bag 2. Remove protective eyewear (if used) by not touching front surface or face and place into cleaning bag, and tie the bag 3. Remove disposable mask (if used) by lifting rear straps over the head first and not touching front surface of mask. Place mask into waste bag and tie bag 4. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser 5. Any waste in a tied waste bag can be placed into the normal waste disposal receptacle 6. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser 7. Restock or order replacement cleaning supplies <p><u>Cleaning of PPE</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Protective eyewear should be cleaned with a cleaning product or warm soapy water, then wiped down with a disinfectant 9. The empty cleaning bag can be placed into the normal waste disposal receptacle 10. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser |

Type 3: Targeted cleaning

This circumstance requires a complete enhanced cleaning process that decontaminates a defined work area of five (5) metres of where the infected person was working or spent time and this needs to include common areas they may have visited. It is important to talk with the infected person (over the phone) and any other person who can define their movements. The following describes the Targeted COVID-19 Cleaning process when undertaken by a NSW RFS member.

| Preparation | Task | Post cleaning |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wear minimum PPE and PPC required for cleaning type ➤ Gather cleaning equipment and products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prepare a non-leak plastic waste bag <u>and</u> a separate non-leak plastic cleaning bag ➤ Clean the identified immediate area and surrounding 5 metres from where the person had been coughing and/or sneezing or had been working (e.g. workstation) with an appropriate cleaning product followed by disinfectant, leaving it to dry on surfaces ➤ This is followed with a disinfectant of high touch point areas such as, but not limited to, lifts, hand rails, door handles, light switches, kitchens, toilets, arms of chairs, and for vehicles and boats, steering wheels, dash, control panels, hand rails, access doors, lockers, equipment handles, pump controls, flat surfaces in the cab and glass ➤ Mop hard surface floors with disinfectant ➤ Place any disposable cleaning cloths, paper towel, wipes etc. into the waste bag ➤ Remove disposable gloves (without touching outside of gloves with bare hands) and place into waste bag ➤ Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser ➤ Put on new disposable gloves ➤ Clean all cleaning equipment with disinfectant and return it to the cleaners' room or storage area | <p><u>PPE removal</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove disposable gloves (without touching outside of gloves with bare hands) and place into waste bag 2. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser 3. Remove protective eyewear by not touching front surface or face and place into cleaning bag 4. Remove coveralls (if used) and place into waste bag 5. Remove disposable mask by lifting rear straps over the head first and not touching front surface of mask. Place mask into waste bag and tie bag 6. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser <p><u>PPC removal (if coveralls not used)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Soiled clothing should be placed into the cleaning bag, without touching inside of the bag and tie bag 8. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser <p><u>Cleaning of PPE/PPC</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Protective eyewear should be cleaned with a cleaning product or warm soapy water, then wiped down with a disinfectant 10. Machine wash PPC or clothing in water 60 degrees celsius with synthetic detergent (e.g. OMO, FAB) and dry naturally out of direct sunlight 11. The empty cleaning bag can be placed into the normal waste disposal receptacle 12. Wash hands with soap and water (20 secs) or if not available, apply alcohol based hand sanitiser <p><u>Restocking</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Restock or order replacement cleaning supplies |