

Community Update – May 6

Safe Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfecting continues to be an important tool to fight against the spread of COVID-19. We thought it would be good to provide some reminders about the safe use of cleaning products.

Hard surface disinfectants

Health Canada is working with disinfectant manufacturers and industry associations to inform Canadians of the products that can be used to help against the spread of COVID-19. Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses. This means they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant when used according to the label directions.

Although they do not claim to kill viruses such as COVID-19, cleaners can help limit the transfer of microorganisms. For high-touch hard surfaces such as door handles and phones, Health Canada recommends cleaning these often with either regular household cleaners or diluted bleach according to the label directions.

Diluted Bleach

Use bleach in a well-ventilated area and **never mix** with other chemical products. To prepare diluted bleach for a solution to disinfect high-touch hard surfaces, do so according to instructions on the label or in a ratio* of:

- 250 mL (1 cup) of water per 5 mL (1 teaspoon) bleach,
- 1 litre of water (4 cups) per 20 mL (4 teaspoons) bleach
- * assuming bleach is 5 % sodium hypochlorite, it will say on the label.

Disinfectants, household cleaners, and bleach are meant to be used to clean surfaces. Never use these products on the skin or internally (e.g. by swallowing or injecting these products) as this could cause serious harm. Ensure that all cleaning products are stored safely out of the reach of children.

The attached CBC news article talks about how to clean your home safely with disinfectants. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mH4ToEIwb-I