

Cleaning and Disinfection

Do car seats and booster seats need extra cleaning and disinfection to prevent spread of COVID-19? If so, how should car seats and booster seats be cleaned and disinfected?

It may be possible that people can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this isn't thought to be the main way the virus spreads. CDC recommends [cleaning and disinfection](#) of frequently touched surfaces and frequent handwashing or the use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol as best practice measures for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses.

Some cleaning and [disinfectionexternal icon](#) products are not recommended for use on car seats and booster seats. Owners should follow the manufacturer's cleaning instructions for their car seats and booster seats.

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for [children](#) in the United States. Always buckle children in age- and size-appropriate car seats, booster seats, and seat belts when riding in a vehicle.

[What is the difference between cleaning and disinfecting?](#)

Cleaning with soap and water or a detergent removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading infection. *Disinfecting* with a household disinfectant on [List N: Disinfectants for use against SARs-CoV-2external icon](#) kills germs on the surface. By disinfecting or killing germs on a surface **after** cleaning the surface, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection. For more information review cleaning and disinfection recommendations for [facilities](#) and [homes](#).

[Is it safe to vacuum in a school, business, or community facility after someone with COVID-19 was there?](#)

The risk of spreading SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, during vacuuming is unknown. At this time, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 associated with vacuuming.

Consider removing area rugs completely, if possible, to reduce the need for cleaning, disinfection, and vacuuming.

If vacuuming is necessary or required,

- First, follow the CDC recommendations for [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#).
- Close off areas visited by the ill persons. Open outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours or as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
- After cleaning and disinfection, the following recommendations may help reduce the risk to workers and other individuals when vacuuming:
 - Use a vacuum equipped with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if available.
 - Do not vacuum a room or space that has people in it. Wait until the room or space is empty to vacuum, such as at night, for common spaces, or during the day for private rooms.
 - Temporarily turn off in-room, window-mounted, or on-wall recirculation HVAC to avoid contamination of the HVAC units.
 - Do NOT deactivate central HVAC systems. These systems tend to provide better filtration capabilities and introduce outdoor air into the areas that they serve.