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Cleaning Loaner Equipment Best Practices

Loaner equipment should be thoroughly cleaned after every use. Multiple resources suggest that the COVID-19 virus can remain on cardboard for 24 hours, on plastic surfaces for 3 hours to 3 days, and on stainless steel for 3 days¹.

Cleaning Process:

- Establish a “dirty” and “clean” work areas. Be careful not to cross contaminate.
- Wear gloves while cleaning equipment. If using sprays, wear safety goggles and mask.
- Place all equipment on “dirty” work area.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection with a Bleach/water solution, spray disinfectant or wipes.
- Use an [EPA approved disinfectant spray](#) or dip item in bleach/water solution for 1-5 minutes³, then remove and place in clean work area to air dry. The bleach/water solution can be used for 24 hrs³. Always follow directions on label.
- To clean firearms or bows, do not use bleach. Firearm cleaning supplies should be appropriate for the inert firearms and disinfectant spray for archery/crossbows and related equipment.
- Dispose of the bleach/water solution in the sink drain.
- Clean and wipe down all work surfaces.
- Wash hands after removing gloves.

Bleach/Water Solution:

- Check expiration date on bleach bottle before purchasing or using.²
- Use gloves and safety glasses or sunglasses to protect eyes from splashing.
- Always start with water in container, then carefully add bleach to the water.
- **Mix 1/3 cup bleach per 1 gallon of water** OR 1 cup bleach per 3 gallons of water.³

Resources:

1. National Institutes of Health, <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/study-suggests-new-coronavirus-may-remain-surfaces-days>
World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/coronavirus-disease-answers?query=how+long+does+it+stay+on+surfaces>
2. Michigan State Univ: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/covid-19-disinfecting-with-bleach>
3. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>

CDC COVID Cleaning info:

Cleaning / Disinfection Decision Tool: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/ReOpening_America_Cleaning_Disinfection_Decision_Tool.pdf

Cleaning and Disinfecting your facility:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility-H.pdf>

Cleaning and Disinfecting public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf

When to wear gloves: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/gloves.html>