



## Episode 9: Floors – Should You Disinfect?

### Is it necessary to disinfect the floor?

There is really no clear guidance for floors. In the Operating room, yes, there are guidelines, and also if there is visible blood or other body fluids on a floor. Below are some cleaning and disinfection statements:

#### ***CDC 2003 Summary***

“Extraordinary cleaning and **decontamination of floors in health-care settings is unwarranted**. Studies have demonstrated that **disinfection of floors offers no advantage** over regular detergent/water cleaning and has minimal or no impact on the occurrence of health-care–associated infections”

*CDC/HICPAC Guidelines for environmental infection control in healthcare facilities 2003*

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/environmental-guidelines.pdf>

#### ***CDC 2008 Summary***

“...the routine use of germicidal chemicals to disinfect hospital floors and other noncritical items is controversial”

“...**no differences have been found in healthcare–associated infections rates when floors are cleaned with detergent rather than disinfectant**”

*Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008, Page 25*

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/disinfection-guidelines.pdf>

#### ***Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) 2018***

“Floor cleaning consists of dry dust mopping to remove dust and debris, followed by wet mopping with a detergent to clean. Floors are low-touch surfaces that rarely come in contact with the hands of patients/residents or health care providers; **under normal circumstances, the use of a disinfectant is not required.**”



### **What are the appropriate procedures for cleaning a hard floor?**

1. Pre-clean the floor to remove large debris and soil. Damp dusting of the floor is recommended instead of dry dusting to help reduce circulation of contaminants in the air if there are susceptible people in the area (elderly, immunocompromised)
2. Apply the cleaning solution to the floor, with a mop using friction or use an autoscrubber,
3. If a disinfectant component is involved, you must allow the solution to remain wet for the appropriate contact time as indicated on the label. This could be as long as 10 minutes, depending on the disinfectant used.
4. Allow the floor to air dry.

### **What are the different tools and methods for cleaning and disinfecting floors?**

#### **Mop & Bucket Application**

- Cleaning solution quickly becomes dirty.
- Low productivity due to changing of mop water.
- High consumption of water and cleaning solution.
- Low removal of soil and risk of spreading the soil.
- Effectively cleaning mops heads can be a challenge.
- Quat binding can occur between the solution and the mop, if using a quat-based solution.
- Poor results.

#### **Flat Mops (Microfiber or Disposable)**

- No transfer of dirty cleaning solution as the flat mop is not re-dipped into the solution.
- Higher productivity than mop & bucket.
- Increased pickup and dirty solution is flushed out in laundering process or disposed of if using disposables.
- Easier to move across the floor, lighter

#### **Autoscrubber / Machine Application**

- Best productivity.
- No contamination of cleaning solution.
- Best pickup and removal of soil. Dirty solution stored in the recovery tank until it is dumped down the drain.

### **What causes sticky or hazy floors when using disinfectants?**

Sticky or hazy floors when using disinfectants on a regular basis can be a result of a few things.

- The soil load is too heavy for the product / method being used.
- Dust mopping step skipped.
- Quat buildup over time from not rinsing.
- Over diluted product or too much applied to the floor.



If disinfectants are to be used on a daily basis, consider rinsing or incorporating a deep clean with a general purpose cleaner on a periodic basis. If manual cleaning methods (mops) are used on a daily basis, using an autoscrubber on a periodic basis will also help remove residue.

### **How do you clean up a blood, or other body fluid spill?**

- Block off the area so no traffic can get through
- Put on appropriate personal protective equipment
  - Gloves at a minimum
  - Eye protection and a gown may be added depending on the size of the spill
- Clean first with absorbent or washable material
- Apply disinfectant and allow to remain wet for contact time
- Wipe up area after contact time has been achieved to remove any possible slip hazard. Dispose of materials as per policy
- Remove your barriers, remove gloves and perform hand hygiene

### **What are the benefits of using a conventional floor finish with antimicrobial additives?**

Antimicrobial additives are being incorporated into conventional floor finish products in order to impart antimicrobial properties into the floor finish. They cannot claim to kill any organisms of public health concern, but rather can help provide aesthetic significance (e.g., spoilage bacteria, odor-causing bacteria, control odors and mold). The antimicrobial is designed to protect the material itself from microbes and not people from microbes. None of these products work instantly to kill these microorganisms.

### **Is it possible to disinfect carpet?**

- EPA does not allow any cleaning or sanitizing products to have an anti-viral claim.

### **How would you clean up blood or other body fluids from a carpet?**

- Post wet floor sign
- Don personal protective equipment
  - Gloves at a minimum
  - Goggles or face protection and gown depending on the cleaner/disinfectant recommendations and if the risk of splash or spray is present
- Remove as much of the contamination as possible
  - Use absorbent material if blood or other liquid
  - Use a scraper, if available (dispose of after use) if material is a solid
  - If glass is present, pick up glass with another device (tongs) and dispose of as per policy
- Apply cleaner/disinfectant
  - Allow to sit for 'disinfectant' time



- Extract solution with wet/dry vacuum, extraction equipment or equipment specified.
- After carpet has thoroughly dried, remove 'Wet Floor' sign.
- Extract again with plain hot water to prevent buildup of dirt and to remove residue
- Remove protective equipment and perform hand hygiene.