

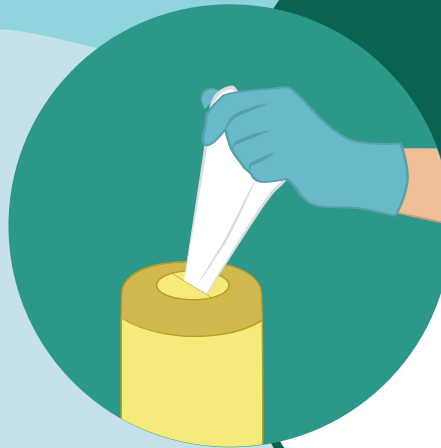
# Cleaning & Disinfecting



## What is cleaning?

The process of removing visible dirt, dust, spills, smears, and grime, as well as some germs, from surfaces.

- Maintaining cleanliness is crucial in healthcare to prevent the transmission of dirt and grime to patients.
- While cleaning alone may be sufficient in certain scenarios, it is insufficient in healthcare settings because it does not effectively eliminate germs.
- Cleaning surfaces prior to disinfection can enhance the efficacy of eliminating germs.



## What is disinfecting?

The process of eliminating or harmful microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, and fungi) on surfaces or objects.

- Disinfection is crucial because cleaning alone doesn't eliminate germs.
- Disinfectants alone may not effectively tackle excessive dirt, spills, or smears, and can potentially spread contaminants.
- Disinfection should not happen before cleaning. Simultaneous cleaning and disinfection or a two-step process with cleaning before disinfection is recommended.

Resources: CDC Project Firstline Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection (Session Plan) ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) and Project Firstline Washington: Online Infection Control Training Series