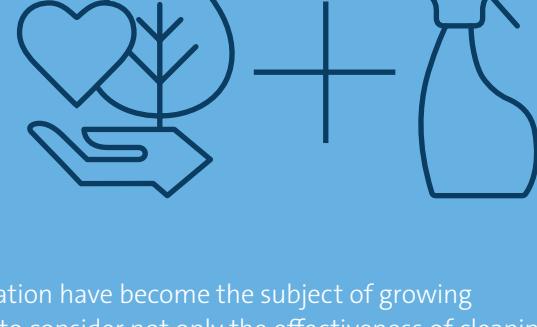


# Stay green and clean during COVID-19



As COVID-19 continues to spread, cleaning products and sanitation have become the subject of growing attention. With the increased frequency of use, it's important to consider not only the effectiveness of cleaning products but also the implications for human health, safety and the environment.

## The use of cleaning products is on the rise.



Sales of aerosol disinfectants **grew 400%** in March 2020 and sales of multipurpose cleaners **grew by almost 150%** compared with the same period in the previous year.<sup>1</sup>



**82%** of business leaders said it was "likely" or "very likely" that they will **increase the cleaning frequency** of their facilities **after reopening** following the COVID-19 shutdown.<sup>2</sup>

## Unfortunately, misuse is common.



**39%** of adults have **misused** cleaning products when trying to combat COVID-19, and **one quarter** of subjects reported: "an **adverse health effect** that they believed was a result" of the products.<sup>3</sup>



From January through March 2020, poison centers received **45,550** exposure calls related to cleaners (28,158) and disinfectants (17,392), representing overall **increases of 20.4% and 16.4%** from January - March 2019 (37,822).<sup>4</sup>

## Health risks are associated with exposure to cleaning products.



In a study of cleaning products, **75%** contained **irritants**, **64%** contained **harmful substances** and **28%** contained **corrosive substances**.<sup>5</sup>



**High-frequency use of spray products during cleaning** (especially glass-cleaning and furniture sprays and air freshening sprays) was associated with:

The most commonly reported hazards include:



**59%** eyes



**50%** skin



**60%** ingestion<sup>7</sup>

**40% increase** in wheeze

**50% increase** in asthma symptoms or medication use

**100% increase** in incidence in physician-diagnosed asthma<sup>6</sup>

## Stay clean and green with these best practices.

**1**

Choose products that are **effective** and **safe**.

Cross-reference the [Environmental Protection Agency's \(EPA\) List N](#) of products effective for use against COVID-19 with products that have earned sustainability certifications such as [UL ECOLOGO®](#) certified products that are verified safe for human health.

**2**

Train janitorial staff on **proper use** and read product instructions.

Offer training on the hazards of cleaning products, exposure risks, best practices for safe cleaning, effective use and proper storage.

**3**

Outfit users with **personal protective equipment (PPE)** for cleaning.

Ensure individuals who will be using cleaning products have access to the proper PPE such as masks and gloves to protect them from exposure to potentially harmful chemicals used in cleaning products.

## Reference these helpful resources.

[EPA's List N of Cleaning Products Effective Against COVID-19](#)



PRODUCT CERTIFIED FOR REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. VIEW SPECIFIC ATTRIBUTES EVALUATED: UL.COM/ECL UL2799

[UL ECOLOGO Certification](#) to learn about green products

[UL SPOT](#) to find ECOLOGO Certified products

[UL Start Safe Playbook](#) for tips for cleaning during COVID-19

[Protecting workers who use cleaning chemicals – Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)/ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) Cleaning and Disinfection of Environmental Surfaces](#)

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Statista, "Sales growth of cleaning products due to coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States as of March 2020", August 2020.

<sup>2</sup> OpenWorks, "Market Study of 271 business executives", April 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "Knowledge and Practices Regarding Safe Household Cleaning and Disinfection for COVID-19 Prevention – United States", May 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Cleaning and Disinfectant Chemical Exposures and Temporal Associations with COVID-19 – National Poison Data System, United States, January 1, 2020–March 31, 2020", April 2020.

<sup>5</sup> International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health, "Hazardous substances in frequently used professional cleaning products", March 2014.

<sup>6</sup> American Journal of Respiratory Critical Care Medicine, "The Use of Household Cleaning Sprays and Adult Asthma", October 2007.

<sup>7</sup> International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health, "Hazardous substances in frequently used professional cleaning products", March 2014.



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