

The following guide explains how to clean and disinfect Safespaces products.

### Cleaning and Disinfecting – What’s the Difference?

- **Cleaning** removes germs and dirt from product surfaces as well as reducing stains and odours. Cleaning does not necessarily kill germs.
- **Disinfecting** kills germs on product surfaces through the use of chemicals. Disinfecting does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can lower the risk of spreading infection.
- **Steam cleaning** also kills germs through the high temperature of the steam and can loosen germ-concealing debris.
- **Jet washing** is effective at removing germs and can reduce some stains.

### Prevention

If the person is known to smear, consider the use of preventative steps such as double incontinence pads to limit leakage. We advise that you discuss your requirements with all carers so that the night time routine regarding pads is consistent.

If possible try and clean surfaces that are visibly soiled or stained immediately. This is really important as the sooner the cleaning starts, the more effective it is.

Ensure that the room is well ventilated to reduce the build-up of odours. Open a window or use a fan to help circulate air more effectively.

Try to clean and disinfect your product as part of a regular routine. This is more effective than cleaning based on a visual inspection alone.

# FACT SHEET

## Cleaning and Disinfecting



### Cleaning Products

Always follow label directions and hazard warnings. Eye protection and gloves should always be worn when working with bleach solutions and where there are bodily fluids. Try to ventilate the area during and after cleaning.

Cleaning products that can be used:

- Universal clinell wipes
- Clinell clorox wipes
- Chlor clean tablets

Combined products such as Actichlor Plus contain a compatible cleaner and disinfectant.

Don't mix cleaners and disinfectants, unless the labels indicate it is safe to do so. Combining certain products (such as chlorine bleach and ammonia cleaners) can result in serious injury.

Stain-specific cleaners such as 'Stain Devils' can be more effective than general cleaners for some stains.

Enzymatic cleaners, such as 'Urine Off' can be more effective at removing stale urine as they break down any soaked-in residue.

Cleaning or disinfecting products containing bleaching agents can discolour the PVC fabric over time. They will not affect the integrity of the product.

If using a new cleaning product do a patch test in a discrete area.

**Disclaimer:** Safespaces do not endorse or recommend any particular products. Always read the label and product information before use. Pay attention to the risk indications and follow the safety precautions on the label.

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### The Process

1. Remove all loose debris from the product
2. Loosen and remove any attached substances. Jet washing or steam cleaning can help with this - otherwise, warm water applied with a cloth
3. Wash surfaces with your choice of cleaner and rinse thoroughly
4. Apply any required stain-specific cleaners or enzymatic cleaners and wipe off as required
5. Disinfect with your choice of disinfectant and wipe off as required. Disinfection usually requires the product to remain on the surface for a certain period of time, typically just a few minutes.
6. If the product is to be packed away for storage, ensure it is thoroughly dry to prevent the development of mould.

If the surface is not visibly dirty, you can clean it with a product that both cleans (removes germs) and disinfects (kills germs) instead. Be sure to read the label directions carefully, as there may be a separate process for using the product as a cleaner or as a disinfectant.

The end result should be bacterially clean even though some marks and stains may be visually present.

### Safespaces Cleaning Process

At Safespaces, as part of our cleaning process, we use a combination of jet washing, steam cleaning, detergents, anti-bacterial wipes and enzymatic cleaners. The product is then hung in our drying room and packed away when fully dry.

### Cleaning Facilities

If you have access to a cleaning facility, always discuss cleaning products and procedures with your infection control team.

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