



Lincoln-Lancaster County
Health Department

Clean - Sanitize - Disinfect in Early Childhood Settings

Cleaning with soap & water is the first step in removing germs. Some items require a second sanitizing or disinfecting step to kill additional germs.

1. Clean

Use soap & water to remove dirt & germs.

2. Sanitize *or* Disinfect

Use heat or chemicals to reduce germs to a safe level.

Sanitize food contact surfaces, tables, high chairs, mouthed toys, cribs and nap mats.

Use chemicals to virtually eliminate germs.

Disinfect diaper stations, bathroom surfaces and doorknobs.

Not all products are alike.

Choose the best product for your facility by reading the product label.

Product

Bottles must be labeled with the product name.

Directions

Read and follow directions. You must use as directed to kill germs!

Active Ingredients

Sanitizers and disinfectants have active ingredients to kill germs. Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) and ammonium chloride are common ones.

Contact Time

Chemicals take time to work.
The chemical must remain wet on the surface for the stated contact time to kill the germs.

EPA Registration No.

Chemicals must be EPA registered to be used in child care. Look for the number on the label!

Storage: NE DHHS Title 391 3-006.32E states: All cleaning agents must be kept in locked storage at all times children are in care.

Rule Exception: DISINFECTANT by the diaper station may be stored in an unlocked place inaccessible to children.