

CHURCH CLEANING TIPS - OPENING AND STAYING OPEN

1. Reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 by cleaning and disinfection is an important part of reopening our churches. We all need to develop a plan, implement our plan, and maintain and revise our plan to make it as safe as possible to reopen our churches and keep them open. A good guide to start with is [CDC GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PUBLIC SPACES](#) . A good starting knowledge of COVID-19 strengths, weaknesses, and limitations will help to decide how to develop your plan of attack to clean and disinfect your church.
2. Initially, you need to deep clean your entire church. If time is limited, start with the areas to be used at reopening and do the rest in the following days. Cleaning is an important first step because it physically removes dirt, organic matter and most germs from surfaces, but does not destroy some harmful germs that may remain. All surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned before disinfection. This ensures that germs are not hidden from the disinfectant when it is applied.
3. SOAP - I know that we have all been told to wash our hands since we were small children and that now that COVID-19 has come into our lives, it is even more important that we wash with soap to loosen and rinse the dirt, germs, and viruses from our hands before touching our face or eating a meal. BUT, did you know that WASHING HANDS WITH SOAP DESTROYS THE CORONAVIRUS! Soap is one of our most effective defenses against invisible pathogens. SOAP IS GENTLE AND SOOTHING - AND CAN BE EXTREMELY DESTRUCTIVE FOR MICRO-ORGANISMS. A DROP OF ORDINARY SOAP DILUTED IN WATER IS SUFFICIENT TO RUPTURE AND KILL MANY TYPES OF BACTERIA AND VIRUSES, INCLUDING THE NEW CORONAVIRUS THAT IS CURRENTLY CIRCLING THE GLOBE. Soap molecules will wedge themselves into the lipid envelopes of certain microbes and viruses (including COVID-19), prying them apart. They act like crowbars and destabilize the whole system. Essential proteins spill from the ruptured membranes into the surrounding water, killing the bacteria and rendering the viruses useless. THUS, SOAP AND DETERGENTS (soap and other cleaning chemicals mixed together) ARE PERFECT FOR CLEANING BEFORE

DISINFECTING on water safe surfaces. [COVID-19 expert explains what soap does to SARS-CoV-2 virus - MAYO CLINIC](#)

4. Use chemicals and disinfectants as directed on their labels. Pay close attention to what the proper dry times are for the chemicals used in order for them to accurately disinfect. EX: CLOROX BATHROOM - after thoroughly cleaning a surface spray CLOROX BATHROOM onto surface until completely wet and let stand for 10 minutes before wiping. This product will need 10 minutes on the surface to properly disinfect. But, if using 70%-91% ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL the dry time to disinfect is only 10-15 seconds. The following are two links for chemicals that can be used for disinfecting for COVID-19. [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Fighting Products](#) and [EPA - N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS - CoV-2](#)
5. ROUTINE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING - Cleaning is an essential part of disinfection. Organic matter can inactivate many disinfectants. Cleaning reduces the soil load, allowing the disinfectant to work. Removal of germs such as the virus that causes COVID-19 requires thorough cleaning followed by disinfection. THE FOLLOWING LINK IS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. It is a no nonsense 6 page outline that tells you WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT to environmentally clean and disinfect for COVID-19. [AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PRINCIPLES FOR COVID-19](#)
6. THE SERVICES AND PRODUCTS THE CLEANING CREW ARE PROVIDING OUR CHURCH IN FLORA, IL. - We all know the old saying: "A CHAIN IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK." The cleaning we do and the safety precautions we provide must be implemented at a level that will insure the safety of the individual with the most vulnerable immune system attending our services. My wife had surgery for a life threatening condition early in 2019 which has continued to make her immune system vulnerable. So, for over a year before we knew that COVID-19 existed, I was seriously challenged to find a way to make our home a safe haven for her condition because of the continued treatment that followed. Lots of cleaning ideas and hundreds of chemicals with which to clean and sanitize. A daunting job even for a retired pharmacist. As I competed to become the King of Clean, I quickly started to have concerns with the residues left behind by some cleaning and disinfecting products.

Unless you can eliminate those residues left the surfaces involved can become BACTERIAL FARMS. A lot of disinfectants get their power through VERY HARSH CHEMICALS. The harsh chemicals left behind can contribute to POOR AIR QUALITY AND TRIGGER OTHER HUMAN AILMENTS.

TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT - Talking with our cleaning service (Frutiger's Cleaning) I found that they were using a product from a company called ENVIROX. ENVIROX produces a small variety of products all registered and certified by EPA, GREEN SEAL PRODUCTS, ECOLOGO, NSF AND THE CARPET AND RUG INSTITUTE. I realized there is no 100% perfect solution to the world cleaning and sanitizing problem. THIS COMPANY, ENVIROX, LOOKED TO BE THE BEST SOLUTION FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING I COULD FIND AT THIS MOMENT.

7. FRUTIGER'S CLEANING - Paula Frutiger's cleaning service from Xenia, Il. (Close by) cleans our church in Flora, other churches in the area (including the church she attends), and some of Flora's Industrial Manufacturers. One of the products Paula uses is called ENVIROX H2ORANGE2 CONCENTRATE. This product is a SANITIZER/VIRUCIDE CLEANER and can be reduced to 2 dilutions that can be used for about 95% of the cleaning and sanitizing in my home and our church. The savings of shelf space, time and money, along with a much simpler approach to cleaning and sanitizing that really does the job has been a wonderful since of relief. THIS PRODUCT CAN BEST BE EXPLAINED BY THE FOLLOWING COMPANY LINKS. [Envirox - outbreak cleaning guide](#) , [Envirox - our products](#) , [Envirox - your facility](#) , [Why EnvirOx - Envirox](#) (hit Why EnvirOx link) , [Try.Enviroxclean.com](#) PAULA FRUTIGER is a friend and has said she would be glad to talk and explain the EnvirOx products she uses. If you become interested in the products she can help you find a distributor. If the product is not available because of supply/demand problems she usually carries extra supply and will try to help. FRUTIGER'S CLEANING - paulafrutiger@yahoo.com - 618-508-5223
8. ELECTRONICS AND WATER UNSAFE SURFACES - Computers, cellphones, iPads, remote controls, microphones, digital controls on microwaves, coffee makers, washers and dryers , thermostat controls and on and on. We use 91% isopropyl alcohol for electronics because of ability to disinfect quickly (10-15 seconds) with very little water involved. DO NOT

SPRAY DIRECTLY ONTO DEVICE FROM SPRAY BOTTLE. USE FOLDED PAPER TOWEL THAT HAS BEEN WETTED WITH THE ALCOHOL AND WIPE ITEM OFF. If ALCOHOL WIPES begin to show up again, they are equally good to use. Here is a link for covering other things -soft surfaces, laundry, etc [Cleaning and disinfecting your facility - CDC](#)

9. WOODEN STRUCTURES - wood pews, walls, and other wood structures that are COVERED WITH A GOOD SEALED COATIN can be cleaned with some of the above Envirox products and 70% isopropyl alcohol. A lot of our churches have beautiful OLDER POROUS WOOD STRUCTURES that could easily be DAMAGED BY A LOT OF CLEANING AND SANITIZING PRODUCTS. For these OLDER WOOD STRUCTURES 91% - 99% ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL WORKS because of only needing the alcohol on the surface for 10-15 seconds before wiping off. These strengths of alcohol have very little water in them and evaporate quickly.

Let's keep each other posted on what is working and not working in these first few weeks. Some of my best long term education has come from doing it wrong the first time around and then using that bite your lip incentive to get it right thereafter. From our diverse backgrounds we all have good ideas to share while making some new friends at the same time.

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