

# KEY PRINCIPLES OF C&D

## C&D Basics



The cleaning and disinfection process (C&D) is essential to reduce germs on surfaces and prevent disease in your animals. **However, the C&D process is often performed improperly.** There are five key principles to keep in mind when performing cleaning and disinfection procedures.

### 1. CLEAN SURFACES BEFORE DISINFECTION.

C&D is a two-step process. Cleaning removes organic matter, such as manure, bedding, feed, body fluids, dirt and other debris, that can hide organisms from the disinfectant, and in some cases, can inactivate the disinfectant. Disinfection destroys most remaining pathogens on surfaces.

### 2. USE THE RIGHT PRODUCT FOR THE SITUATION.

Many disinfectant products are available, but vary in their ability to kill certain organisms, their hazards, the surfaces they can be used on, and cost. No single product works for all situations. Products used on a daily basis will likely be different than those needed for a disease situation. Higher concentrations or longer exposure times may be needed to destroying resistant organisms, but may increase health and safety risks or damage surfaces.

### 3. READ THE PRODUCT LABEL.

Labels provide critical information, including the organisms the product can kill or inactivate, proper concentrations and other instructions for use, and any health and safety issues. Always read and follow the label instructions for effective disinfection.

### 4. GIVE IT TIME TO WORK.

Disinfection does not occur immediately. Disinfectants need time to do their job. Times vary for each product and will be listed on the product label. Surfaces must remain wet or exposed for the full contact time for best results. Contact time is critical for success!

### 5. KEEP EVERYONE SAFE!

All disinfection methods have health and safety considerations for people, animals or the environment. Personal protection, such as gloves, goggles/face shield, and sometimes masks/respirators, should be worn when mixing and applying disinfectants. Surfaces should be rinsed before contact with animals. Read the product label for any safety measures required.

**For more information on disinfection in animal settings, visit the [CFSPH Disinfection Website](https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/infection-control/disinfection).**

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