

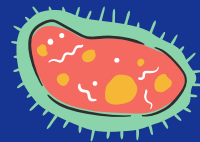
Cleaning and Disinfection in Healthcare Settings



Cleaning: removal of visible soil from objects and surfaces

Disinfection: using cleaning techniques and disinfectants that destroy or prevent the growth of germs

Why Does It Matter?



Germs are more likely to cause problems in sick patients, because their immune defenses may not be the same as someone who is healthy and at home.



Examples of High Touch Surfaces that Require Cleaning and Disinfection

- Bed rails
- Keyboards
- Light switches



Contact Time for Disinfection

Amount of time a disinfectant needs to sit on a surface, without being wiped away or disturbed to effectively kill germs



Do's and Don'ts of Cleaning and Disinfection

Do's

- **Always clean before disinfecting.** Dirt and grime can make disinfectants not work as well.
- **Follow the listed contact time.** This ensures items are disinfected to keep germs from spreading.



Don'ts

- **Don't rush** the process. Wait until contact time is complete before using objects or surfaces or before a new patient comes into a room.
- **Don't wipe** the surface to dry it faster.
- **Don't blow** on the surface to dry it faster.