



## How to Disinfect Your School Buses

The novel coronavirus has raised a lot of questions about how to best clean common areas and high-touch surfaces such as those in school buses. We have reached out to our suppliers to understand what can and can not be used on interior materials and surfaces.

A lot of information has been published about COVID-19 on surfaces. We are not providing any rationale behind current scientific studies or findings. Our goal is to give you information directly from our material suppliers who have knowledge of the types of products that can be used on specific school bus parts.

We have also incorporated guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to support these recommendations. Here are some tips and guidelines for disinfecting your school buses to help keep children safe.

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### General cleaning and disinfecting guidelines:

- Follow all safe handling and safety instructions for the cleaner/chemicals being used.
- Use personal protection equipment such as gloves to prevent direct contact with chemicals that may affect skin.
- If splashing is possible, use personal eye protection such as a face shield or goggles to prevent potential eye contamination.
- Ensure adequate ventilation as specified by the instructions of the cleaners/chemical agents being used.
- Make sure towels being used are clean and free of any oils, dirt or residue from other chemicals.
- Do not mix chemicals.

### When cleaning/disinfecting surfaces, remember:

- Surfaces may need to be "cleaned" before they are "disinfected." Remove dirt and debris from surfaces before sanitizing.
- If the cleaner/disinfectant is not ready-to-use (RTU) on a wipe, apply the cleaner to your towel and not directly to the surface.
- Do not soak, saturate or leave puddles of cleaner or chemicals on surfaces. This can be harmful to material and soak through.
- Quarantine bus for 48hrs\* if possible.

\*Specified by supplier and supported by The Journal of Hospital Infection: [https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701\(20\)30046-3/fulltext](https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701(20)30046-3/fulltext)

**Products recommended for metal (e.g., sidewalls) surfaces that are ready-to-use (RTU) and require no dilution with water:**

- Alcohol Isopropyl alcohol (70% - known as rubbing alcohol) is preferred but might be in short supply.
- Denatured alcohol is the next best option. It is sold in paint aisles at Home Depot and Lowes in quarts and gallons and is more available than isopropyl alcohol at this time.

**Products recommended for seating surfaces and plastics that are ready-to-use (RTU) and require no dilution with water:**

- Fantastik Antibacterial All-Purpose
- Formula 409 Antibacterial All-Purpose Cleaner
- Lysol Foaming Disinfectant Cleaner
- Virox 5 RTU
- Oxivir TB Wipes (ready-to-use wipes)

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**Specific to seating surfaces, guidelines for use of "Mediclean" and "common bleach":**

- **Mediclean:** This product is recommended for use only in a diluted form with a water-to-cleaner ratio of 10:1. Please follow product guidelines for making dilution mixtures.
- **Common bleach:** This product is recommended for use only in a diluted form with a water-to-bleach ratio of 10:1. Any surface cleaned with a diluted bleach solution **MUST** be additionally wiped with clear water after the diluted solution is used and wiped off. Water wiping is a second operation after using the diluted solution.

**Products NOT recommended for surfaces:**

- Pure bleach or pure hydrogen peroxide on vinyl (seating surfaces) or plastic. This can cause damage to vinyl and plastic surfaces.
- Pure or diluted bleach on fabric (e.g., seatbelts). This can weaken the fabric, potentially compromising safety over time.
- Ammonia-based products on plastic or vinyl. Ammonia breaks down vinyl and can make it sticky or tacky when subjected to heat and light.
- Ammonia-based product on touch screens. This will damage the anti-glare and anti-fingerprint coatings.

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**Sources:**

- CDC website for Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>
- The Journal of Hospital Infection: [https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701\(20\)30046-3/fulltext](https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/S0195-6701(20)30046-3/fulltext)
- CDC FAQ page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>



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