



Soft Surfaces

In Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Settings

Your staff works hard to clean and disinfect your facility to prevent infection and keep patients and residents healthy. But one important component is often missing from their cleaning routine: **soft surfaces**. Pathogens can survive on fabrics for up to 2.5 months¹ and can then be transferred to the hands of staff, patients and residents. To ensure your staff is preventing the spread of pathogens via soft surfaces, ensure your environmental cleaning practices address soft surfaces in:



Patient/Resident Rooms

Soft surfaces in patient/resident rooms can harbor dangerous pathogens. One study found staphylococcal species on patient room chairs.² Help prevent the spread of pathogens by regularly sanitizing fabrics and upholstered furniture, including:

- Bedside chairs
- Blankets*
- Cushions
- Drapes
- In-room couches
- Linens*
- Mattresses*
- Privacy curtains



Lobbies and Common Areas

These areas are heavily trafficked by families, patients and residents, and can contribute to cross-contamination if they are not properly cleaned. Pathogens, such as VRE, can be transferred between people and upholstered furniture^{3,4} such as the chairs and couches often found in common areas. Sanitize these items at least once every day:

- Chairs
- Couches
- Cushions
- Rugs
- Throw pillows



Work Stations

Reception desks, nursing stations and office spaces are all places where your staff may convene between patient and resident care. Soft surfaces in these areas can become contaminated with dangerous pathogens that staff may inadvertently carry from one room to another. Studies show that bacteria have been found on staff uniforms and can live long enough on these soft surfaces to be transferred to other workers, patients, residents or even the worker's home.^{3,5} To prevent the spread of pathogens via soft surfaces, sanitize these items regularly:

- Desk chairs
- Rugs
- Soft computer equipment (e.g., mouse pads)

*Allow to air dry before use.

1. Neely AN, Maley MP, "Survival of enterococci and staphylococci on hospital fabrics and plastic." J Clin Microbiol 2000; 38:724-726.

2. Kelly A. Reynolds, PhD, Jonathan D. Sexton, Zuckerman College of Public Health, Environmental Health Sciences, The University of Arizona, "Evaluation of a Soft Surface Sanitizer in Healthcare Environments," 2013.

3. Alice N. Neely, "Persistence of microorganisms on common hospital surfaces." Infection Control Resource, Vol. 4, No. 4. Strategies to control their dissemination. www.infectioncontrolresource.org/Past_Issues/IC16.pdf.

4. Noskin GA, Bednarz P, Suriano T, Reiner S, Peterson LR, "Persistent contamination of fabric-covered furniture by vancomycin-resistant enterococci: implications for upholstery selection in hospitals." Am J Infect Control. 2000 Aug;28(4):311-3.

5. Wiener-Well, et al. Nursing and physician attire as possible source of nosocomial infections, Am J InfectControl 2011, 39: 555-9.

Soft Surface Checklist

You can easily incorporate these checklists into your daily cleaning protocols to ensure you are eliminating pathogens from fabrics and upholstered surfaces in your facility.

Patient/Resident Rooms	Bedside chairs	
	Blankets*	
	Cushions	
	Drapes	
	In-room couches	
	Linens*	
	Mattresses*	
	Privacy curtains	

Lobbies and Common Areas	Chairs	
	Couches	
	Cushions	
	Rugs	

Work Stations	Desk chairs	
	Drapes	
	Keyboard wrist support	
	Mouse pads	
	Rugs	

Tips for Eliminating Microorganisms from Soft Surfaces

Soft surfaces can include materials like:

- Polyester
- Canvas
- Cotton
- Cotton blends
- Nylon
- Upholstery
- Blended fabrics

Use these application tips for best results:

- When using a product for the first time on soft surfaces, spot test product in a small, inconspicuous area.
- To ensure consistent coverage, apply products in a smooth zigzag motion, spraying mist across fabric until wet. Do not saturate.

Ask your Clorox Commercial Solutions sales representative about products EPA-registered for soft surfaces.

For more information, contact your Clorox sales representative or call **800-537-1415**. email: cleaning@clorox.com

*Allow to air dry before use.