

CRYPTON[®], NANOTEX[®], DURABLOCK[®] & BIO AM UPHOLSTERY

CARE & CLEANING GUIDE



The Australian Government's Department of Health (2020) suggests that the length of time that SARS-COV-2 (the cause of COVID-19) survives on inanimate surfaces will vary depending on the amount of contaminated body fluid present, such as respiratory droplets, and environmental temperature and humidity. It is unlikely that Corona viruses will survive for long once droplets produced by coughing or sneezing dry out¹.

Safe Work Australia (2020) recommends a combination of cleaning and disinfecting as the most effective way to remove the COVID-19 virus from surfaces in the workplace. They make the following distinction between cleaning and disinfecting²:

- Cleaning is the physical removal of germs, dirt, and organic matter from surfaces.
- Disinfecting is using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces.

It is important to clean before disinfecting because organic matter and dirt can inactivate the ability of disinfectants to kill germs.

CLEANING

Do not remove cushion covers for separate cleaning, even though they do have zippers.

Regular cleaning

- Protect from direct sunlight and dry in the shade.
- Professional cleaning is recommended.
- Can be cleaned with a hot water extraction machine.
- Vacuum regularly using low suction and smooth attachment.
- For more substantial soiling, use a circular motion with water and a clean cloth to try and lift soil from fabric to cloth. Repeat with new cloths and water until stain is removed.
- A mild detergent mixed with water may be used to assist.
- If the stain remains, dry cleaning fluid may be used. Wipe off with clean water and a dry cloth, do not rub. Remove all cleaning residue with clean water.
- May be shampoo cleaned using upholstery shampoo.
- Treated fabrics can be easily cleaned with all cleaning agents including detergents, solvents or 15% diluted bleach (fabric appropriate).
- Exhaust solvent vapour outside building and provide adequate ventilation during cleaning and drying.
- Allow to dry thoroughly before re-use.

Spot cleaning

These treatments will aggressively repel liquid and stains.

- In the event of a spill, treat it as soon as possible to avoid any permanent staining.
- Clean liquid spills with a clean, dry cloth using a blotting motion, do not rub.
- Liquids will bead on fabric surface for ease of mopping up.
- Gently scrape any soil from the surface of the fabric, preventing staining and penetration.
- Wipe the fabric over with a clean cloth and clean water.
- Apply proprietary cleaning agents strictly according to instructions to remove the residue of the spill.

DISINFECTING

The Department of Health (2020) suggests the use of a disinfectant where the manufacturer claims antiviral activity, such as commonly used chlorine-based disinfectants like household bleach with active ingredient Sodium Hypochlorite, or hospital grade disinfectants with active ingredient Benzalkonium Chloride.

A variety of strengths of household bleach are available. The concentration of active ingredient can be found on the product label. The Department of Health (2020) recommends using a 1000ppm (0.1%) bleach solution.

For example; White King Premium Bleach has a concentration of 4.0% Chlorine, so to achieve a 0.1% bleach solution, you would use 1 part bleach to 39 parts water, or 250ml bleach in a 10L bucket of water.

Preparation and use of bleach solution

Bleach solutions should be made up daily using manufacturer's instructions for appropriate dilution and use. Using a disposable paper towel or cloth, wipe the cleaned surface of the upholstery with bleach solution. Sufficient time is required to kill the virus, i.e., at least 10 minutes contact time. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and protective eye wear, should be worn when handling and preparing bleach solutions or disinfectants.

Use of disinfectant wipes

Using a disposable disinfectant wipe with active ingredient Benzalkonium Chloride 0.47% w/w, wipe the cleaned surface of the upholstery. Sufficient time is required to kill the virus, i.e., at least 10 minutes contact time.

References:

- 1 Australian Government Department of Health. (2020). Environmental cleaning and disinfection principles for COVID-19. <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-covid-19.pdf>
- 2 Safe Work Australia. (2020). Cleaning to prevent the spread of COVID-19. <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/COVID-and-Cleaning-info-sheet.pdf>