

25 Things You Should Be Disinfecting But Probably Aren't

Some of these items you'll want to spray directly but most you'll want to spray your cleaner onto a good quality rag and then wipe the item down either gently or vigorously depending of course on the item.

I'll give some tips and clues for several of the items.

My cleaner of choice is Zep Quick Clean Disinfectant any time I want to get rid of bacteria; it kills 99.9% of it, and I can use it everywhere in my home especially the kitchen and bathroom. You can also use Lysol spray or disinfectant wipes.

1. Hand Soap Pump

Think about it, you touch the top of the pump or grab the soap bottle BEFORE you wash your hands so it's harboring a lot of germs. You can either spray this and then wipe or spray your cleaner onto a rag and then wipe off. Either way, this is a good place to start.

2. Doorknobs

I've shared before that while I was growing up my house smelled like bleach. My Mother cleaned everything and I learned this trick from her. Always, always disinfect your doorknobs inside and outside.

This is the first place hands touch before coming into your house. You want to be sure it's clean.

3. Deadbolt Lock

You can spray your disinfectant of choice directly onto the doorknob or deadbolt lock and wipe clean BUT if your lock is a keyless entry you'll want to spray on the rag first and then wipe clean. You do not want to get liquids unnecessarily in or on the keypad that may be abrasive for your unit.

4. Kitchen Cabinet Knobs and Handles

The scoop handles are especially notorious for hiding germs. Your hand goes up underneath it so be sure to really clean this area well.

5. Light Switches

I spray my rag and then clean the light switch plate and the switch itself. NEVER spray anything electrical directly. Last week the plumber was here and when he left I WIPED everything down that he touched. I did NOT hear him wash his hands. I was freaking out and this was one of the areas I wiped down first in the bathroom.

6. Sink Drainer

Spray the drainer totally top and bottom and the silverware holder.

7. Bathtub Mat

I like to lay mine down bottom side up first, spraying thoroughly and then flipping to the other side and repeating the process.

8. Toilet Handle (Lever)

Spray directly and wipe it off.

9. Toothbrush Holder

Depending on what yours is made of you can either spray it directly and wipe dry or spray your rag and wipe it clean inside and out. I rinse mine out before putting the toothbrush back in.

10. Faucet Handles

Kitchen, bathroom, and laundry room faucet handles

11. Shower Curtain Liner (if plastic)

I spray mine and let it be. No need to wipe down.

12. Handrails

Whether you enter my home from the sunroom, family room, garage or front door you have to touch this handrail to get to the main floor of the house. TOTAL germ collector. Since mine is wood I spray a rag and wipe it down - top and UNDERNEATH.

13. Alarm Keypads

This may not pertain to you but I have an alarm system that is usually the first thing we touch after we enter the house in order to disarm it. Again, it's electrical so I spray on a rag and then wipe it down.

Electronics in the Home

14. Telephone – landline

Spray a rag and wipe it clean front and back plus the cradle.

15. Smartphones

Be careful here. DON'T spray the screen but if your cell phone is made from a material that can withstand a bit of moisture (metal, Kevlar, etc.) spray a rag and gently wipe clean. If you use a case remove the case and clean it thoroughly. Alcohol swabs also work great for this. If you don't have alcohol swabs, you can apply alcohol to a cotton ball, squeeze out any excess and wipe gently.

16. Remote Controls

Spray disinfectant on a rag or cloth and wipe clean.

17. Game Controllers

Same as above

18. Computer Keyboard and mouse

Same as #16

Outside the Home

19. The Keys to Your Car and House

Don't spray key fobs directly, instead spray on a rag and wipe clean gently.

20. Garage Door Opener

Save as key fob (#19)

21. Car door handles inside and out

Spray on rag and wipe clean

22. Gear Shift

As above

23. Steering Wheel

As above

24. Dashboard controls and glove box

As above

26. Bicycle Handlebar grip and brake levels

As above

27. Reusable Grocery Bags

The germs on these – OY! Spray well with disinfectant spray or Lysol spray including handles and allow to air dry or wipe out if possible.

28. Credit and Debit Cards

Wipe these down with an alcohol swab or cotton ball with alcohol applied.

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