The CDC recommends the cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection for prevention of COVID-19 in households, childcare centers, & schools. This includes toys!

Cleaning removes germs and dirt using soap and water. Disinfecting kills germs using chemicals.

Use diluted bleach to disinfect hard plastic, rubber, and metal toys. Wipe off dirt and place toys in a bucket with 1/3 cup bleach and a gallon of water for 5 minutes. Afterward, rinse the toys with water and let them completely dry.

Books, wooden blocks, and electronics can be wiped down using a disinfectant wipe or spray. Be sure the surface remains wet for 5 minutes or the time required on the wipe’s label & let it air dry. If this toy is likely to be in your child’s mouth, rinse it well with a damp clean cloth and let it air dry again.

Stuffed animals, blankets, and cloth books often can be cleaned on the gentle cycle in the washing machine. Tie the items inside a pillowcase to protect them. Make sure these toys don’t have batteries or electronics inside.

Always read and follow the safety instructions on cleaner and disinfectant labels. NEVER MIX cleaners or chemicals like ammonia, bleach, vinegar, or rubbing alcohol - this can create poison gases. If someone swallows bleach or another disinfectant, or has breathing or skin problems, call Poison Control (800) 222-1222.

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Looking for more information on cleaning & disinfecting to protect against COVID-19?

- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Disinfectants List: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19
- University of Rochester Medical Center - Disinfection handouts and flyers: https://virussafehousekeeping.urmc.edu

*The information provided is intended for your general knowledge only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice or treatment for specific medical conditions. You should not use this information to diagnose or treat a health problem or disease without consulting with a qualified healthcare provider. Please consult your healthcare provider with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your condition.

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