



Spring Cleaning During COVID-19

Please note: COVID-19 is reported to live on surfaces for an extended period of time*.

- As an aerosol, for up to 3 hours (e.g. sneezing, coughing, etc.)
- Clothing – several hours up to a day
- Up to 4 hours on copper
- Up to 24 hours on cardboard
- Up to 2-3 days on plastic and stainless steel
- Up to 4 days on glass surfaces like a Smartphone

General health and safety:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, and before eating or preparing food. (CDC)
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. (CDC)
3. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. (CDC)

Spring is here and in the face of the coronavirus (COVID-19), it is now more important than ever to clean, disinfect, and sanitize. As people #StayHome, waste collection systems across the country are experiencing a strain due to increased residential waste. To keep our communities and trash haulers safe, focus efforts on cleaning up, not cleaning out. Here are ways to spring clean without creating excess waste:

1. Sanitize and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, sinks, computers, and phones in order to keep our homes clean and help stop the spread of the virus and other germs.
2. There are still many typical spring-cleaning activities you can do while you are at home. Some activities include cleaning windows; dusting; organizing the fridge and pantry; and sweeping under large appliances.
3. At this time it is recommended to box up and store any unwanted items until you can take them to a donation center. Some items, including diapers and food, may still be accepted at shelters and food banks. Check locally for locations that are accepting PPE donations.
4. Several communities are suspending yard waste, bulk item pickup, and special collection services until further notice. Instead, make a list of plans and ideas to spruce up your yard.
5. Help slow the spread of the virus and reserve PPE for essential workers. If you have fabric on hand and can sew, there are patterns available [online](#) to make your own masks. If you can't sew, repurpose bandanas and t-shirts into a mask by using rubber bands or hair ties. Don't forget to wash your homemade mask regularly.

When spring cleaning, do your part to limit the amount of excess trash. Check locally for donation center closings, as well as changes to local recycling and special collection services. For information on how to recycle during COVID-19, visit kab.org.

*According to a new study from National Institutes of Health, CDC, UCLA and Princeton University scientists in The New England Journal of Medicine. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces>