



## Cleaning Scout Properties Advice

This information is provided for volunteers and employed staff who perform cleaning of Scouts properties. Site managers are requested to pass this information along to the person responsible for cleaning, and to assist them to implement the following steps as appropriate.

Currently it is unknown how long the Coronavirus remains viable on surfaces however evidence suggests it is between hours and days, depending on the type of material. Routine cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection, is the best practice for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings. The ideal frequency and timing of cleaning will be dependent on the frequency of use of the property, as well as the interval between uses.

- **Cleaning** (e.g. with detergent solution) refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- **Disinfecting** (e.g. with bleach solution) refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Please follow the advice provided in Environmental cleaning and disinfection principles for COVID-19 from the Australian Government Department of Health.

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-covid-19.pdf>

People who clean Scouts properties should follow the manufacturer's instructions and wear impermeable disposable gloves. Wearing a surgical mask plus eye protection is also recommended because this acts as barrier to inadvertently touching your face with contaminated hands and fingers, whether gloved or not.

Any occurrences of confirmed COVID-19 that may impact Scouts are to be reported via the Scouts NSW WHS incident report form. This is in addition to the reporting that will occur separately through the official channels when the person is diagnosed. The Scout Group Leader or other site manager must close the property immediately, including notifying hirers of Scouts property that the property is closed until further notice. Cleaners must be advised to refrain from cleaning and await further instruction, as more rigorous and informed cleaned is required.