

# Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Knowing – and understanding – each can help you reduce germs on surfaces throughout your facility.

You may think that wiping down surfaces with either a diluted solution in a bucket or spray bottle is a quick, easy way to keep these areas germ-free. But there's a big difference between cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting. Each has its advantages, but not all methods are created equal. Find out what sets them apart, and how you can get the most out of all three in your facility.



dirt & soils

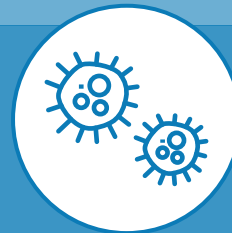
### CLEANING

Cleaners – as they're identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – are substances or mixture of substances that clean away or remove inanimate material – e.g., dirt, grease, crumbs, etc. – from a surface.

this is where it gets interesting...

### SANITIZING

Surface sanitizers reduce the bacterial population but do not destroy or eliminate all bacteria on surfaces. Instead, they reduce the number of bacteria – and only bacteria – on a surface to a safe level.



bacteria



bacteria,  
viruses, & fungi



### DISINFECTING

Since they feature the broadest spectrum of activity, surface disinfectants provide the most effectiveness against different kinds of microorganisms – bacteria, fungi, and viruses.

When it comes to eliminating germs on surfaces, understanding the differences between products can help you find the best combination of products.

- ✓ Read and understand what's on the product label.
- ✓ Look for products with broad-spectrum efficacy and fast kill times.
- ✓ Know where the products are being used.
- ✓ Firmly establish cleaning and sanitation practices.

