

DISINFECTING 4-Step Process

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services outlines a four-step process for child care providers to use for disinfection. This process ensures that the proper method of cleaning and disinfection is used on a daily basis, especially in areas that can lead to cross contamination or illness. These guidelines are also wise to follow as a general guide for everyday life to prevent illness.

Here are the steps:

1. First wash the surface or item with soap and water to remove all visible dirt and grime. Doing so prevents the germs from hiding under the dirt and grime.
2. Next, rinse the surface or item with clear water to wash away debris and as many germs as possible.
3. Soak or spray the surface or item with the disinfectant solution. Allow it to remain on the surface or item for at least 2 minutes to ensure the solution has time to do its job of killing germs. Rinse only the items that a child might place in his or her mouth, like toys and eating utensils.
4. Lastly, let the items air-dry so they have ample time to get the full benefit of the sanitization process.

