

Cleaning and Disinfecting Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between cleaning and disinfecting?

- + Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- + Disinfecting refers to using chemicals, for example, EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process can further lower the risk of spreading infection.
- + For more information, visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility-H.pdf>

Can Knoll furniture products be disinfected safely for Covid-19?

Knoll has tested three disinfecting agents (see below) on our furniture products. We have tested to make sure these agents do not damage our products when used in accordance with manufacturers' directions for use and dilution. Specifically, they will not cause harm to standard Knoll Office and KnollStudio laminates, paints, glass, aluminum, plastic, nylon and plated finishes, as well as Knoll Office veneers. For more information on cleaning Knoll products, visit <https://www.knoll.com/document/1356613587198/>.

We are currently consulting EPA's List N of Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 and evaluating new common-use disinfectants for use in addition to the below tested and approved disinfectants. (Note: Knoll does not test chemicals for efficacy against Covid-19; we do test to make sure chemicals approved for use do not damage our products).

- + Envirox® H2Orange2 Concentrate 117
- + Virox™ Accelerated™ Hydrogen Peroxide 5
- + Envirox® (GNx2 technology) #1, Green-Certified Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Degreaser

Some textiles can be disinfected with bleach solutions referenced in the next question.

For information on what cleaning products are effective against viruses including Covid-19, please refer to the EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.

What is the best disinfecting method for Covid-19?

The EPA recommends a variety of disinfecting solutions that are effective against Covid-19. Please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov) for detailed cleaning and disinfecting guidance including frequency and recommended formulations.

What bleach cleanable fabric options are available?

- + KnollTextiles has both woven and non-woven (coated) bleach cleanable fabrics. Spinneybeck also offers a bleach cleanable leather, Acqua.
- + For sanitizing, both woven and non-woven/coated fabrics can be wiped down with a bleach solution (according to cleaning directions). The bleach solution must be wiped off to maintain the integrity of the fabric over time.
- + Coated bleach cleanable fabrics are non-porous, so you can more easily cover the entire surface of the fabric with the disinfecting solution; plus the build in moisture barrier helps protect the foam.
- + Visit [knolltextiles.com](https://www.knolltextiles.com) for detailed cleaning methods

Do anti-microbial fabrics or other materials protect against the Covid-19 virus?

A fabric or material that is antimicrobial can kill or inhibit the growth of microorganisms like bacteria and fungus. This feature protects the fabric or material from the growth of certain microorganisms that would deteriorate its appearance or performance. It is not intended to protect humans from the spread of infectious diseases.

My client is concerned about Covid-19; what materials should I recommend?

Knoll has tested three disinfecting agents on most of our standard furniture products. (See above: *Can Knoll furniture products be disinfected safely for Covid-19?*)

In terms of textiles, bleach cleanable products can be disinfected. Coated bleach cleanable upholsteries may be easiest to maintain because of the non-porous surface. Additional testing is in process. (See above: *What bleach cleanable fabric options are available?*)

Can I use Lysol on Knoll products?

We are evaluating whether the use of Lysol on Knoll products causes any harm to standard Knoll fabrics and finishes.