

# Module 3: Setting Up a Cleaning Cart

## Infection Prevention and Control Training for Environmental Services Staff

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Healthcare-Associated Infections Program  
Center for Health Care Quality  
California Department of Public Health



# Objectives

- List high-touch surfaces at your facility
- Identify the cleaning supplies and equipment used at your facility
- Discuss how to set up a cleaning cart
- Demonstrate how to clean and disinfect equipment after use

## Preparing Environmental Cleaning Products: Types of Solutions

- Premixed
- Mixed in an automatic mixing station
- Prepared manually



# Preparing Environmental Cleaning Products: Manual Preparation

- Always prepare solutions:
  - In a designated area
  - According to manufacturer's instructions
  - Using accurate measuring tools (i.e., use a measuring cup).  
Never eyeball or guesstimate the measurement of disinfectant solution to water.
- Discard solutions according to facility policy and label instructions.

# Preparing Environmental Cleaning Products: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Safety

Wear appropriate PPE when prepping solutions

**Gown/Apron**



**Facemask**



**Gloves**



**Face shield/Goggles**



## Products Must Be Used According to Label Instructions

- Use containers approved or provided by the disinfectant manufacturer
- Make sure the chemical and the label match
- Never refill used containers with different chemicals
- Never refill dispensers intended for single use
- Check expiration date



# Consider Safety, Efficiency, and Convenience When Setting Up Your Cart

- Be familiar with products and tools used
- Identify supply needs
- Save time; be efficient
- Support safety through appropriate use of products

Note: Clean your hands and put on clean gloves before touch clean items on your cart.



## Gathering Supplies and Cart Setup: Top of Cart

- Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) and soap refills
- Required PPE
- Resident room supplies

When setting up your cart, consider: **safety, convenience, and efficiency.**





## Gathering Supplies and Cart Setup: Front Deck



- Mops with removeable mopheads/floor mops
- Broom/dry mop
- Duster
- Buckets
- Wet floor caution signs
- Soiled linen bag
- Trash bag

## Gathering Supplies and Cart Setup: Inside Cart

- Microfiber cleaning cloths
- Cleaning solutions and disinfectants
- Solution containers
- Bags or bins for soiled materials

### Note:

- Do not mix chemicals (this can create toxic gases)
- Do not use spray bottles for cleaning
- Do not keep items on cart you won't use or need
- No food or drinks on cart!
- Lock your cart or store in a secure place



## Let's Get Ready to Clean a Room

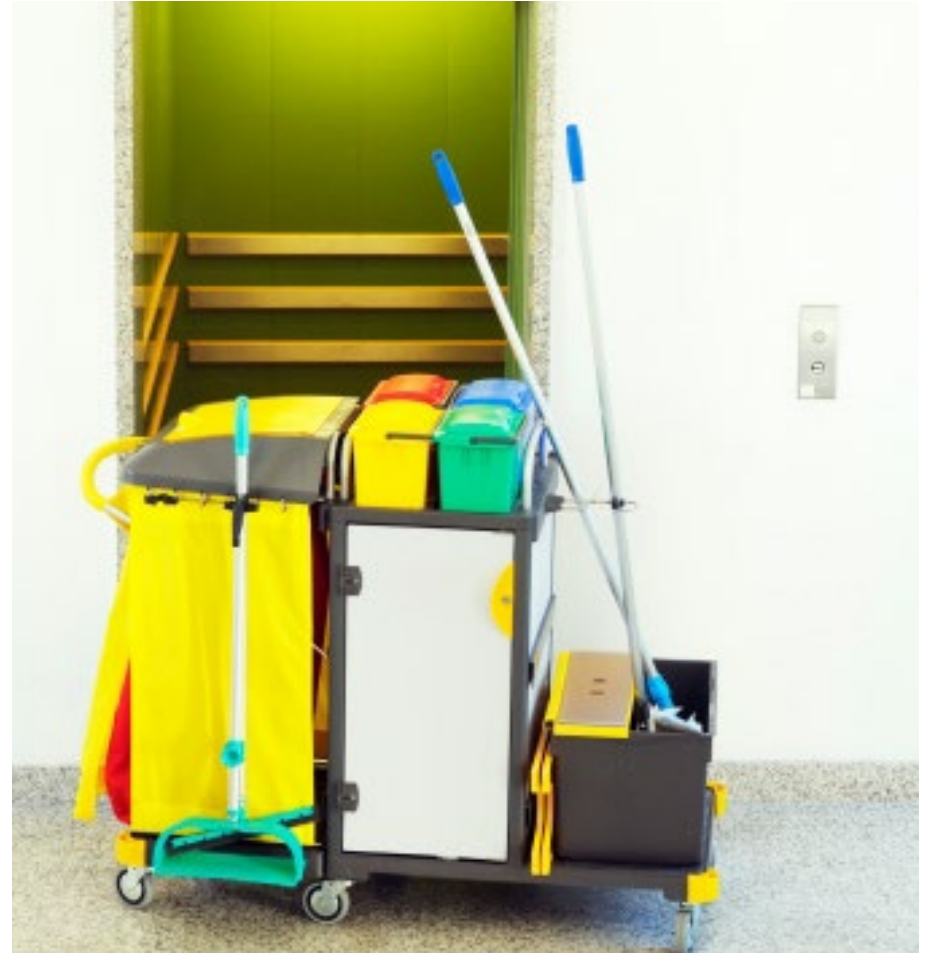
### Ask yourself the following:

- What is the type of room? (single-occupancy, multiple-occupancy)
- Are there special cleaning needs? (isolation room, ventilated resident, room obstacles)
- What resident room supplies need to be replenished?



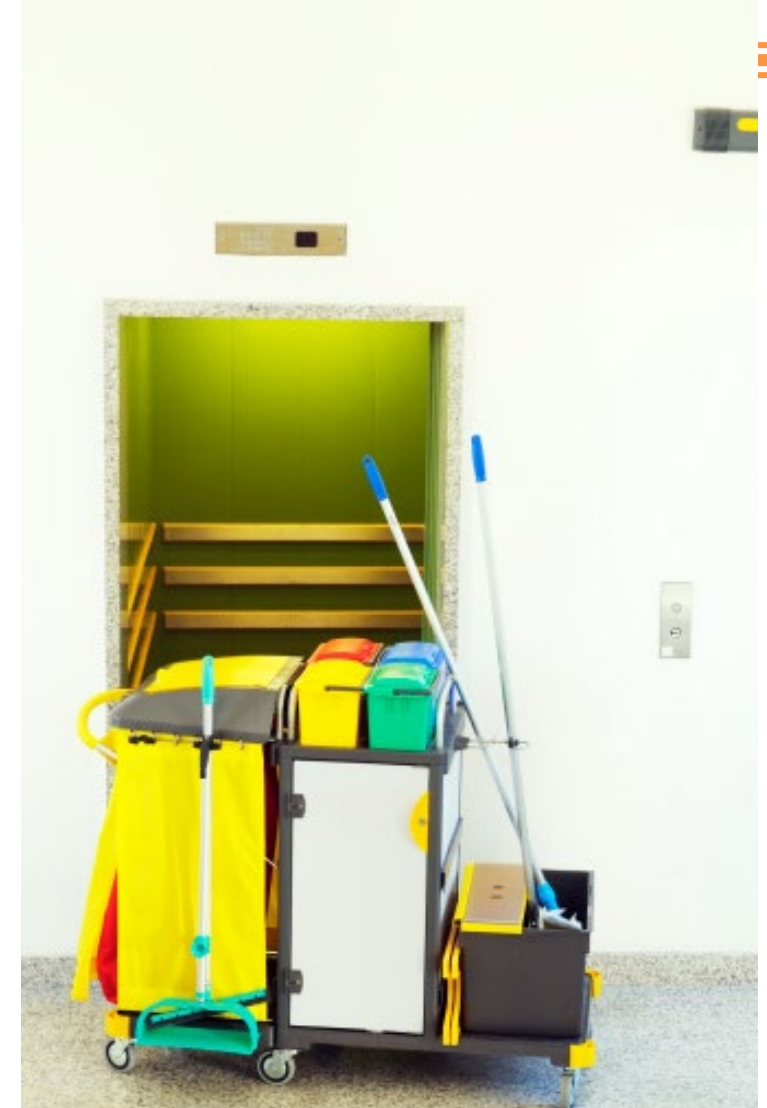
## Daily Cleaning of Reusable Equipment and Cart Storage

- Clean and disinfect reusable cleaning equipment (e.g., mop) after each use
  - Reduces bioburden
  - To avoid germ transmission
  - Should be done in a designated area
- EVS manager should have access to assess EVS cart before use



## Cleaning of Reusable Equipment and Cart Storage at the End of the Shift

- Remove dirty mop heads and soiled microfiber cleaning cloths
- Ensure cleaning follows manufacturer's instructions
- Follow your facility's policy for cleaning EVS cart and closet



## Knowledge Check

***Why do we clean and disinfect reusable cleaning equipment after each use? Select all that apply.***

- A. Reduces bioburden
- B. To prevent spreading germs
- C. To keep a safe working environment
- D. To prevent germ growth
- E. All of the above

## Knowledge Check

*Why do we clean and disinfect reusable cleaning equipment after each use? Select all that apply.*

- A. Reduces bioburden
- B. To prevent spreading germs
- C. To keep a safe working environment
- D. To prevent germ growth
- E. **All of the above**

## Recommendations for Cleaning Carts

- ✓ Stock enough resident room supplies
- ✓ Have access to ABHR
- ✓ Stock enough microfiber cleaning cloths so they can be changed when soiled
- ✓ Use buckets or bins for disinfectant solution
- ✓ Use microfiber mops
- ✓ Separate clean and soiled items
- ✓ Clean and disinfect reusable equipment
- ✓ Clean high-touch surfaces at least once per shift
- ✓ Keep a reference list of high-touch surfaces on your cart
- ✓ Know the required contact/wet times for all disinfectants used
- ✓ Have a lockable compartment
- ✓ Store in a designated EVS area



## Practices to Avoid with Cleaning Carts

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- X Never mix different chemicals
  - X Do not refill containers
  - X Do not mix clean and soiled materials
  - X Do not use the same cloth for two different resident bedspaces
  - X Do not use a dirty cloth on a clean area
  - X Never store personal items, food, or beverages on cart or in EVS closet
  - X Do not use spray bottles
  - X Never leave cart unattended
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## Summary

- It is essential for EVS staff to have training on and demonstrate competency in using products on a cleaning cart to ensure safety and success of use
- A standardized cart set up can streamline cleaning and disinfection processes and reduce cross-contamination
- High-touch surfaces and cleaning equipment should be cleaned regularly (e.g., daily)

## References

1. [Cleaning and Disinfection Strategies for Non-Critical Surfaces and Equipment, CDC \(PDF\)](#)  
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2. [Disinfection and Sterilization, Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)  
([www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/index.html))
3. [Environmental Cleaning, Healthcare-Associated Infections Program, California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#)  
([www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/EnvironmentalCleaning.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/EnvironmentalCleaning.aspx))
4. [Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Part 1: Set up the Cleaning Cart, Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program \(ICAP\) and Nebraska Antimicrobial Stewardship Assessment and Promotion Program \(ASAP\) \(Video\)](#)  
([www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_O4B0Nmfr40](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_O4B0Nmfr40))

## References

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5. [EVS and the Battle Against Infection: a Graphic Novel, CDC](http://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/training/evs-battle-infection.html)  
([www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/training/evs-battle-infection.html](http://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/training/evs-battle-infection.html))
6. [Healthcare Environmental Infection Prevention and Control](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/environment/index.html)  
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## Project Firstline Resources

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Visit the [Project Firstline Website](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ProjectFirstline.aspx)

([www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ProjectFirstline.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ProjectFirstline.aspx))

Email the Project Firstline AskBox

[ProjectFirstline@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:ProjectFirstline@cdph.ca.gov)

Project Firstline is a national collaborative led by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide infection control training and education to frontline healthcare workers and public health personnel. The California Department of Public Health Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program is proud to partner with Project Firstline, as supported through Strengthening HAI/AR Program Capacity (SHARP) funding. CDC is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this presentation do not necessarily represent the policies of CDC or HHS and should not be considered an endorsement by the Federal Government.



# ACTIVITY TEACHING AIDES / WORKSHEETS



## Spot it!

Identify five incorrect Environmental Services (EVS) cart practices.



## Pin it!

Pin the equipment to the Environmental Services (EVS) Cart.

Where would you place each item?  
Which items do not belong?



**Microfiber Cloths**



**Disinfection Wipes**



**Alcohol-Based Hand Rub**



**Spray Bottle**



**Drink**



**Bleach**



**Mops & Wet Floor Sign**