

# Principles of Cleaning

Proper cleaning techniques can greatly reduce the risk of cross contamination and the spreading of germs and bacteria. By following some basic guidelines on cleaning applications, we can do our part to make the world a cleaner and safer place.

- 1.** Wash hands thoroughly and always wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- 2.** Scrubbing is the best way to remove dirt, debris, and microorganisms.
- 3.** Cleaning is required before any disinfection process because dirt, waste, and other materials can lessen the efficacy on many chemical disinfectants.
- 4.** Always clean from the cleanest to the dirtiest areas.
- 5.** Always clean from the highest to the lowest areas.
- 6.** Clean from the back or the farthest point from the door to the front of the room.
- 7.** Daily and deep cleaning is needed to maintain a standard of cleanliness. Schedules and procedures should be maintained according to the latest available research and guidelines.
- 8.** Do not leave the room before the cleaning is complete unless gloves are removed and hands are washed first.
- 9.** Cleaning methods and written cleaning schedules should be based on the type of surface, the amount and type of soil present, and the purpose of the area.
- 10.** The manufacturer's mixing (dilution) instructions must be followed when using any chemical.
- 11.** Never store diluted products on the shelf for longer than the manufacturer's instructions.
- 12.** Never mix chemicals with other chemicals.
- 13.** Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the contact time of the disinfectant. Thoroughly rinse the area after the contact time has been met.
- 14.** Dry sweeping, mopping and dusting should be done carefully, to prevent dust, debris and microorganisms from getting into the air and landing on clean surfaces.
- 15.** Buckets that contain cleaning solutions or rinse water should be changed every three rooms, or before that if the bottom of the bucket cannot be seen, and immediately after cleaning blood or other body fluids.

