



COVID-19 ENHANCED VEHICLE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

We are all washing our hands constantly due to the coronavirus, but what about your vehicle? It's important to keep vehicles clean and sanitized, but you need to do it properly. That means killing viruses within your vehicle's interior surfaces.

Why It's Important

There's still a lot we don't know about COVID-19, but it appears the highest risk of transmission is through droplets from an infected person – they cough onto a surface and you touch it. It's believed the virus can stay active on a surface for days.

Even if you're always alone in your car, you could transfer the virus from outside surfaces. And, of course, carrying passengers increases the risk.

What Should You Clean?

You want to disinfect all the "high-touch" surfaces, including the obvious ones like the steering wheel and centre touchscreen. But you might not realize just how much you touch make it practice to wipe down the following:

- Steering wheel.
- Door handles.
- Inside and outside and the grab handle to close the door.
- The key fob.
- The turn signal and wiper stalks.
- Shift lever.
- Starter button.
- Lock, window, and power mirror switches.
- Seat adjusters, whether power- or manually adjustable.
- Clean all buttons, dials and switches, including for the climate control and stereo.
- Flat surfaces such as the dash, console, armrest, and door pads should also be cleaned.
- rear-view mirror. If you've adjusted it, you've touched it.

What Should You Use?

One of the most convenient methods is a disinfectant wipe, but that isn't completely foolproof. First off, thanks to panic buying, you might not be able to get your hands on any.

Isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol, available in drug and hardware stores. "We wipe everything down with it, but as with any chemical, we should put it on a rag and wipe with that. Apply it to the rag, rather than pouring it directly on the surface."

What Not to Use

Laundry bleach does an excellent job of killing viruses, and an equally decent job of ruining vehicle surfaces so be cautious and test it first as not all company vehicles are work trucks.

At the Gas Pump

Take the same precautions as with any other outside surface. If you can't wash your hands after using the pump, use a disinfecting wipe or hand sanitizer. You could also carry disposable latex or plastic gloves for filling up.

When You're Done

Wash your hands after you've used a vehicle, especially if you have passengers.