

# Environmental cleaning in child care settings

## What is environmental cleaning?

A process that physically removes dirt, dust and debris and the infectious agents that may thrive in them.

### 'What shall I clean with?'

A good quality detergent, hand hot water and disposable cloths should be used for general cleaning.

Disinfectants should only be used when necessary e.g. bodily fluid contamination/ spillage and infection outbreaks.



Cleaning equipment should be colour coded.  
Toilets – Red  
Kitchen – Green  
General rooms – Blue.

### Decontamination of Equipment

- **Always** wear appropriate PPE when cleaning.
- There should be a schedule for the cleaning of the environment to ensure that all high and low surfaces are free from dirt, dust and debris.
- All toys and play equipment should be on a regular cleaning schedule.
- There should be a designated person to monitor cleanliness of toys, equipment and the environment.
- Cleaning schedules for toys should be increased during outbreaks of any infectious illnesses.

### **Outbreaks of Diarrhoea and Vomiting or any other infectious illness.**

- Increase cleaning frequencies to toilets/door handles and door plates
- Clean with a hypochlorite solution i.e sterilising fluid
- Use colour coded disposable cloths
- Wear appropriate PPE whilst cleaning and always wash hands on removal of PPE.

