

Guidance for Shops & Makerspaces Cleaning and Disinfection



August 27, 2020

Keep in mind that this guidance does not negate the importance of following all MIT COVID-19 related precautions such as social distancing and proper mask wearing.

Existing guidance developed for laboratories on the use of [Shared PPE](#) and on [Disinfection of Electronics](#), are relevant to shops and makerspaces with some modifications for their unique conditions.

Note: Custodial Services is cleaning spaces according to the established protocols and any COVID-19 related additions. This cleaning typically includes sweeping floors weekly, and disinfecting door handles and sinks (when present) daily. To obtain details of the custodial services provided for your shop/makerspace, please contact [Tom Hardy](#) (phone: 617-324-5992).

Disinfection can be performed as recommended for laboratory spaces, i.e. using disinfectants that are effective against SARS-CoV-2. Examples include PreEmpt RTU, freshly diluted 10% bleach, Quatricide, and Lysol disinfecting wipes. These are all listed on the EPA N-list (disinfectants approved by the EPA to be effective against SARS-CoV-2, available [here](#)). The [CDC](#) also recommends 70% solutions of alcohol, such as ethanol or isopropanol (keep in mind that 70% alcohol solutions are flammable). Different cleansers and disinfectants should never be mixed with one another. Be sure to wear appropriate gloves as you clean and disinfect surfaces.

In addition, hands should be washed with soap and water frequently, *especially when using shared equipment or PPE*. If a hand washing station is not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol can be used, and hands should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible.

Some special considerations for Shops and Makerspaces include:

- Supervisors should incorporate a strategy into their shop rules to ensure that shared tools and equipment are disinfected before and after each use. Equipment used only by one person should also be disinfected on a routine basis. If an instructor is demonstrating or setting up a tool with a student and disinfecting the equipment is impractical during the demo/setup, they should wash hands (or secondarily use sanitizer) when finished.
- Keeping a log of additional cleaning tasks may be helpful or consider integrating such tasks into your general practice logs. See this [sample log](#) for some ideas of frequent cleaning tasks.
- Surfaces in machine shops and makerspaces can get dirty quickly. To ensure disinfecting is effective, surfaces should be clean before disinfecting.
- Approved disinfectants are designed for hard, non-porous surfaces, they can't be used on fabrics and other porous materials. Shared use of fabric articles such

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as welding jackets should be limited, and cleaning schedules increased when applicable. Since the virus viability decays over time, allow the maximum time possible between uses if shared PPE can't be avoided.

- Avoid spraying disinfecting solutions, especially those that are alcohol based on hot surfaces. This recommendation includes welding torches and other hot work equipment and less obvious surfaces such as hot motors and recently used cutting tools. You may recommend spraying disinfectant onto a paper towel and wiping instead of broadcast spraying when near warm or potentially hot surfaces.
- To the extent possible, use virtual training, and follow social distancing protocols to limit close interactions in shops and makerspaces. The [Teaching Labs Re-Opening Guidance](#) may be useful in thinking about how to structure classes and training sessions.
- Efforts should be focused on social distancing, proper mask wear, and enabling contact tracing when needed.