Mongolian Emergency Service
Hospital Hygiene Project
MeshHp.mn

Cleaning and disinfection of floors and surfaces

Cleaning

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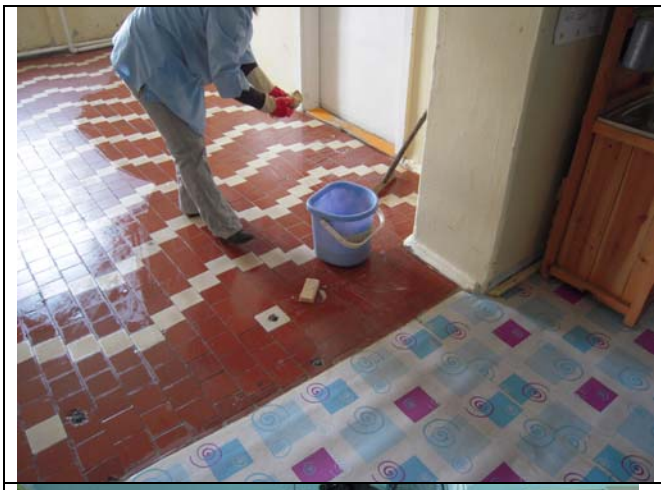
<td>  </td>
<td>Die most simple cleaning method is with bucket and scrub only, the cleaning rag used several times.
The minimum is cleaning agent in the water.
Pieces of soap (left) should not be used at all.
Water has to be changed when it is visibly dirty (below).

This method should not be used in a hospital because bacteria can survive in the water and spread.</td>
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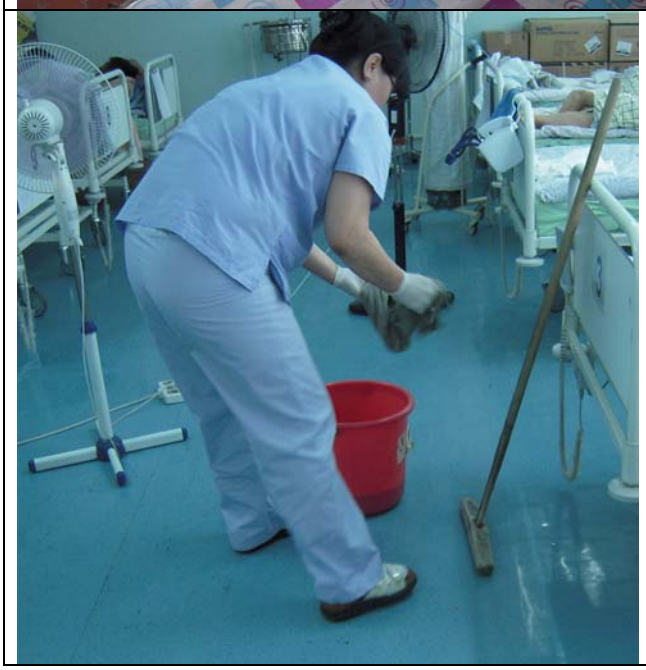
<td>  </td>
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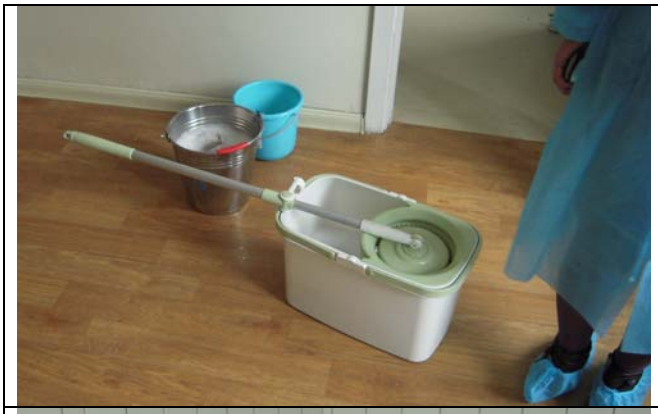
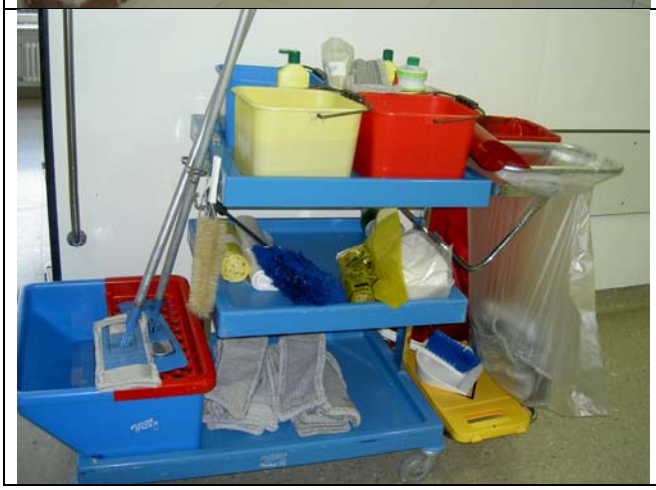
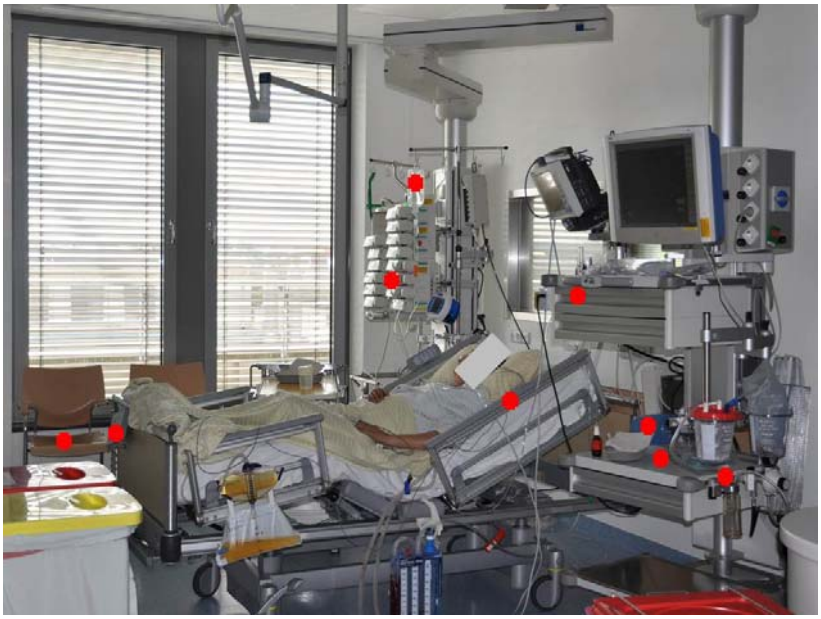
	This is a little more advantaged as the cleaning rag can be wringed mechanically. Also no wooden scrub – wood cannot be disinfected properly.
	This is more advantaged as there is more help for staff, no benting needed any longer.
	This is an example of an appropriate cleaning car of a hospital: ▪ Below is the bucket for the floor mops. They should be used only once and then washed (right bag). ▪ On the top are 3 buckets in different colours: 1 for patient´s room, 1 for toilet, 1 for other areas in sanitary room. ▪ Each bucket has own cleaning rag in respective colour.

Cleaning of all floors and surfaces which are often touched should be done at least once a day.
Surfaces often touched might be

- bed,
- bedside locker,
- eating table,
- stooles,
- doorknobs,
- toilets,
- sinks.

The following picture shows the areas in an ICU room where high cfu´s were found:



More than once a day cleaning is necessary

- in frequently visited areas,
- in areas with high infection risks (eg patients with dangerous infections or colonisations) and
- in areas with immuno-compromised patients (transplantation, chemotherapy, ICU, operating theatre),
- also in wards with high rates of diarrhoe.

Vacuuming is not adequate in healthcare sector. It might be used to clean grills of air ventilation at the ceiling, but nothing else.
Also sweeping should not be done because it can raise dust.

Agents

Usual cleaning agents are used with water to clean a surface or product. As side effect also microbes are reduced: ideally removal of 90-99 %.
Only fluid cleaning agents should be used.

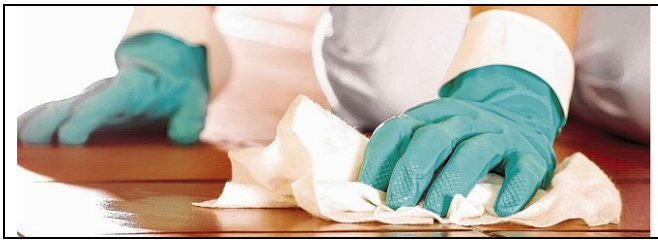
A disinfection inhibits or prevents the growth of microbes on surfaces: ideally killing of 99.999 %.

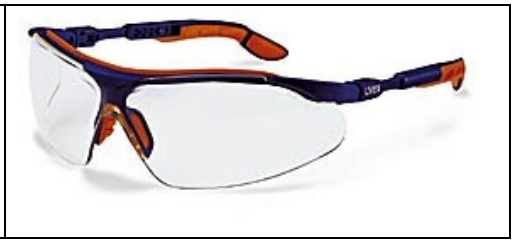
In hospitals, there is always a risk of pathogenic bacteria and viruses on surfaces. Therefore, routine use of disinfectants is recommended.
About the disinfectants to choose, see “list of disinfectants” on website of MeshHp: www.meshhp.mn.

Handling

Prepare cleaning/disinfectant solution only with cold water (no evaporation of the agent, less irritation of mucous membranes).

Always use chemical resistant gloves and wear an eye shield to protect eyes against concentrated agents – splits might damage eye. Eye protecton is not necessary for the cleaning process.





Use a metering unit or at least a metering pump. Never just pour the disinfectant in the water.

Do not give any other substances to disinfectant solution (eg soap, cleaning agent) – only if you have written confirmation of both producers that they can be mixed. Otherwise they might react and the disinfectant might not be effective any longer.

During cleaning/disinfection always gloves have to be worn.

Make a new solution at least every day or when you can see that it is getting dirty.

Rags have to be washed at least daily with temperatures of at least 90°C. You also can use single-use rags.

Disinfectants are used in concentrations and application time which must be given by producer. Usually, the area is not allowed to be used as long as it is wet, but not the full application time.
Aldehydes and oxygen producing agents are the strongest disinfectants for surfaces.

After cleaning/disinfection the rooms should be ventilated.

Walter Popp, 11 November 2012