

Guidelines for Cleaning Computer Products

| UNC Pembroke



Overview

Computers and related products are often considered “high touch” items especially in common shared areas such as libraries and computer labs. As such, routine cleaning and disinfecting of computer surfaces in common shared locations is recommended. These guidelines can also be used for the personal care and disinfecting of your computer products.

General Guidelines

Adapted from Apple [How to Clean your Apple Products](#):

Computer products are made with a variety of materials, and each material might have specific cleaning requirements. To get started, here are some tips that apply to all products:

- Use only a soft, lint-free cloth. Avoid abrasive cloths, paper towels, or similar items.
- Avoid excessive wiping, which might cause damage.
- Unplug all external power sources, devices, and cables.
- Keep liquids away from the product, unless otherwise noted for specific products.
- Don't get moisture into any openings.
- Don't use aerosol sprays, bleaches, or abrasives.
- Don't spray cleaners directly onto the item.

Approved Disinfectants

Using a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe or Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, you may gently wipe the hard, nonporous surfaces of your product, such as the display, keyboard, or other exterior surfaces. Be sure to follow all manufacturer's recommendations and warning labels when using any cleaning product.

- Don't use bleach.
- Avoid getting moisture in any opening, and don't submerge your product in any cleaning agents.
- Don't use on fabric or leather surfaces.
- 70% alcohol wipes and Clorox Disinfecting Wipes are both approved by the EPA for the disinfection of surfaces against Coronavirus.

PPE

- Employees must wear approved protective gloves such as latex, latex-free, or nitrile gloves when cleaning frequently touched surfaces.
- Wearing gloves and changing them often is very important.
- Employees should wash hands thoroughly and frequently during their shift. <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>
- All other PPE requirements remain the same including PPE worn while filling chemical containers at dispensing units.

How should I use cleaners and disinfectants?

Read the label first. Each cleaner and disinfectant has instructions that tell you important facts:

- Precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves or aprons or making sure you have good ventilation during application.
- How to apply the product to a surface.
- Instructions on how to prepare (e.g., dilute) if the product is a concentrate.
- How long you need to leave it wet on the surface to be effective (contact time).
- If the surface needs to be cleaned first and rinsed after use.
- If the product is safe for the surface.
- EPA-registered disinfectants

Additional Resources

[How to clean your Apple product](#)

[How to disinfect the Apple internal or external keyboard, trackpad, and mouse](#)

[How to clean the keyboard of your MacBook or MacBook Pro](#)

[Cleaning your iPhone](#)

[How to clean your AirPods and EarPods](#)