CLEANING... SANITISING... DISINFECTING

Many people think that these three processes are one and the same. **This is not the case,** and the definitions are:

CLEANING REMOVES...

Cleaning is the process of removing soil from a surface by applying a chemical / solution. The dirt is 'suspended' in the solution and removed by wiping / mopping or by mechanical method.

- Although thorough cleaning will remove 90% of micro-organisms, careless cleaning has a negative effect, by dispersing the micro-organisms over a greater area. See One & Done below.
- 90% Efficacy with Cleaning only

SANITISING REDUCES...

When a product claims to sanitise a surface, it is promising to make that surface free of germs that could be harmful to health (according to public health standards and requirements). Sanitising **REDUCES**, not kills the number of bacteria, viruses, and fungi.

- A **SANITISER** is required to reduce germs, bacteria, viruses, and fungi by 99.9%.
- 99.9% Efficacy with Sanitising

DISINFECTING DESTROYS...

The process of destroying micro-organisms, except bacterial spores, on inanimate surfaces.

- A **DISINFECTANT** is required to inactivate/ kill 99.999% (Europe) and 99.9999% (USA) as a minimum.
- Not all disinfectants are the same. There are thousands of different disinfectants that vary in concentration, application, dwell time and PPE requirements.
- 99.999% Efficacy with Disinfecting.

Why is 99.999% important?

To be deemed as SAFE from the possibility of human disease transmission, food contact or medical surfaces require a 99.999% reduction in bacteria or viruses. In cleaning terms this means:

Disinfecting is 10,000 times more effective than standard cleaning and 100 times more effective than sanitising.

Dwell time

During application, the Dwell Time of a cleaning chemical, sanitiser or disinfectant is a crucial element. The optimum Dwell Time should be available from the product data sheets or user instructions.

Dwell time / Application / Touch points

Most service providers will be asked to increase the frequency of cleaning, especially on High Risk Touch points as identified within the WHP. It is important that the optimum Dwell Time is applied to ensure that the surface / item is cleaned / sanitised / disinfected. The correct method will reduce productivity rates.

One & done

1 PER SURFACE

Whichever process is being carried out, it is important to use one cloth surface, per surface clean, to reduce spreading the dirt / germs.

Example - Take a pub / restaurant where a table is prepared for the next customer. The staff member will usually spray a cleaning agent on to the table and wipe the surface, then move to another table and repeat the process. In this common scenario, the cleaning agent / sanitiser / disinfectant is not given enough dwell time to work properly and there is a heightened risk of spreading dirt / germs between the table surfaces. Either a new cloth should be used between tables or, at least the cloth folded to ensure a clean application each time a surface is wiped.

It is the marriage of procedural knowledge and disinfecting chemistry that makes it all work.

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