

Recommendations for Cleaning and Disinfecting Monitoring Equipment

Use disinfecting wipes/cloths (Clorox Wipes or generic brand) or spray (Lysol or generic brand) or another EPA approved disinfection product to wipe down sampling equipment between handlers.

If you don't have access to these disinfectants, you can make a diluted bleach solution by mixing 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of room-temperature water or 4 teaspoons per quart of room-temperature water. You can also use solutions with at least 70% alcohol.

Tips on Cleanliness and Safety

1. Wear disposable gloves during cleaning and disinfection.
2. Always thoroughly wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer after cleaning or coming in contact with a waterbody.
3. Keep tabletops and work areas clean by wiping them with disinfectant after each use.

Water Chemistry Monitoring Kit

Never touch the inside of glassware. Clean only with test tube brush included in the kit and water. If you are concerned about the cleanliness of the kit when you get it, you can disinfect prior to using the kit as well.

1. Clean glassware after use with tap water or distilled water only and using the bottle brush provided in the test kit. Be sure to rinse thoroughly, three or more times, to get rid of any remaining debris or residue.
2. Allow glassware to dry.
3. Turn the glassware upside down (to protect the inside of the tubes) and wipe down or spray any surfaces you touched on the kit with disinfectant.
4. Allow glassware and kit to dry thoroughly before returning to the kit.

Bacteriological Monitoring Supplies

1. To kill the bacteria in the Petri dish, lift the lid and pour about a teaspoon of undiluted bleach into each dish (never touch bacteria colonies). Close the lid, gently swirl the plate to distribute the bleach, and allow the dish to stand for about 15 minutes. Do not reuse dishes.
2. Place the "killed" Petri dish in a plastic bag with household garbage. Three plates will fit in a sandwich-sized Ziploc® bag. Keep dishes out of reach of children and pets.
3. Wash or spray the inside and outside of your incubator, cooler, icepacks, or any other shared equipment, with a diluted bleach solution or another strong disinfectant and wipe dry.
4. If liquid spills from the plate, thoroughly disinfect the area.
5. The pipette and empty media bottles should not be reused for sampling. Dispose of used bottles with household garbage.

For more information on disinfecting surfaces, you can view the guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- Disinfection procedures are from the Centers for Disease Control and are specifically for COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>
- EPA 6 Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf>
- Find EPA-approved disinfection products: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>