

PROCEDURE FOR WASHING AND SANITIZING EATING SURFACES- *Updated 10/2025*

1. To remove dirt and debris, clean the table (or feeding chair tray) by spraying with soap and water or other all-purpose cleaner and wipe with a single-use paper towel or clean microfiber cloth.
2. Rinse the table/tray by spraying with water and then drying with a new paper towel or clean microfiber cloth.
3. To sanitize, thoroughly spray the table/tray with an EPA-registered sanitizing solution, used according to manufacturer's instructions, including how long the product needs to stay visibly wet on the surface, whether the product should be diluted or used as is, and if rinsing is necessary after the contact time.
4. The product will need to stay on the surface for enough time for the sanitizer to kill germs and cannot be immediately sprayed and wiped. In addition, a rinsing step may be required after the sanitizer has been wiped off with the clean paper towel or microfiber cloth.

Additional Considerations

- ❖ Use an EPA-registered sanitizer that is approved for use on food contact surfaces.
- ❖ Use enough sanitizer to completely cover the surface and leave on for the amount of time stated in the instructions. Set a timer to ensure the wait time is met before wiping.
- ❖ Check the manufacturer instructions to see if a rinsing step is required after sanitizing.
- ❖ Sponges should not be used for cleaning/sanitizing tables/trays because they miss dirt, leave detergent and water on surfaces being cleaned, can become contaminated with bacteria, and are difficult to clean.
- ❖ If using clean reusable cloths instead of disposable paper towels, microfiber cloths are recommended because they reduce the transfer of germs from surface to surface better than cotton cloths.
- ❖ If feeding chair trays are used as eating surfaces, the trays should be washed and sanitized in the same way as plates and other eating utensils.
- ❖ If children do not all eat at the same time and instead rotate through a floating snack time, each place at the table must be cleaned and sanitized between use by different children. For safety reasons, sanitizing solution should not be sprayed while children are seated at the table.