



**Guilford of Maine**

A duvalltex brand

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## TEXTILE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

**Protecting and Securing  
your Environments!**



IN TODAY'S  
NEW REALITY,  
**we are more conscious  
about making  
environments  
around us safer.**



**BEFORE CLEANING OR DISINFECTING  
ANY TEXTILES, BE SURE TO FOLLOW  
EACH ONE OF THESE STEPS:**

**1**

Identify the style which you want to clean or disinfect.

**2**

Consult either [www.guilfordofmaine.com](http://www.guilfordofmaine.com) or the style's card and refer to the Cleaning Code section of the style's specifications to see cleaning instructions.

**3**

Always test on a small non-apparent section to make sure the products used to clean or disinfect do not impair color or texture of the surface.

**4**

Clean or disinfect by following the specific instructions.

**5**

After cleaning or disinfecting the textile, always wipe the surface with a damp cloth to make sure no cleaner or disinfectant residue is left behind.

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE **between cleaning and disinfecting textiles?**



## **CLEANING**

Regular cleaning with either a vacuum or soap is recommended as a general maintenance guideline. This process helps to remove soil from surface, but it does not remove germs, nor does it kill them.



## **DISINFECTION**

Disinfecting using a variety of disinfectants will kill bacteria, germs, viruses, and other microorganisms, and reduce the risk of spreading infection.

### **How often should textiles be cleaned?**

Regular maintenance intervals will depend on the environment in which the textile is present. Immediate attention should be given when there is visible dirt or dust on the surface.

### **How often should textiles be disinfected?**

Depending on the type of disinfectant used, a shorter lifespan may result if the frequency between disinfections is short (such as multiple times per day). Disinfection intervals will depend on the environment and users. Follow your local health authorities' recommendations.

# Cleaning and disinfection

## FAQ

### **For spills or stains, what types of cleaners can be used to clean Guilford of Maine textiles?**

Guilford of Maine textiles that carry the standard care label W/S can be cleaned with a wide variety of cleaners:

- > Soap and water
- > Water-based cleaning agents
- > Solvent-based cleaning solutions
- > Other cleaning systems for upholstery

No matter what cleaner you use, always test on a small, non-apparent section first, to make sure the products used do not impair color or texture, or stain the textile. Make sure not to saturate the fabric and always follow the cleaner manufacturer's instructions.

### **What are the different types of disinfectants?**

- > Bleach-based cleaners: Make sure your bleach has a sodium hypochlorite concentration of 5% to 6%. This is an intermediate level disinfectant. You are advised always to use a 10:1 water-to-bleach dilution ratio.
- > Hydrogen peroxide-based cleaners: A cleaner with 3% hydrogen peroxide is considered an intermediate level disinfectant.
- > Alcohol-based cleaners: Composed of two water-soluble chemical compounds, ethyl alcohol and isopropyl alcohol. They should have a concentration of between 60% to 90% in order to be an effective low-level disinfectant.
- > Quaternary ammonium (quat)-based cleaners: Widely-used, low-level disinfectants with many different types. Always follow the product labels and guidelines so as to ensure their effectiveness.

We recommend that you follow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of registered household disinfectants (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>).

# Cleaning and disinfection

## FAQ

### **What types of disinfectant can be used to disinfect identified Guilford of Maine textiles?**

Guilford of Maine textiles that are identified as W/S can be disinfected with the following:

- > Hydrogen peroxide-based cleaners
- > Alcohol-based cleaners
- > Quaternary ammonium (quat)-based cleaners

Guilford of Maine textiles identified as W/S and Bleach Cleanable can be disinfected with the following:

- > Bleach-based cleaners
- > Alcohol-based cleaners
- > Hydrogen peroxide-based cleaners
- > Quaternary ammonium (quat)-based cleaners

### **By using disinfectants, can we be 100% sure that no bacteria, germs, or viruses are present?**

No – given that bacteria, germs, or viruses are not visible, there is no guarantee that by using disinfectants, 100% of bacteria, germs, or viruses will be killed. The process will, however, greatly reduce the risk of their spreading and causing infection.

### **Why do I always need to rinse the textile after applying disinfectants?**

Whether you are using disinfectants or just water and soap, always rinse after use to make sure no residue is left. Residues may cause the textiles to look dirty and may cause skin irritations.

# Cleaning and disinfection

## FAQ

### **What is the perfect amount of disinfectant to use?**

First consult the textile's specification sheet for cleaning instructions. Also, always refer to the disinfectant manufacturer's label and instructions, since these may vary from one product to another. Use as little disinfectant as possible, to limit the risk of damaging the textile and any other underlying or surrounding materials.

### **How long should I leave the disinfectant on the textile?**

To ensure effective disinfection, the surface should be wet before you apply any disinfectant. The correct contact time of the disinfectant on the textile will vary based on the type of disinfectant used. For the best results, always read the disinfectant manufacturer's label and instructions and follow them closely.

### **How often should I disinfect textiles?**

You should disinfect as required. Given that every situation and environment is different, many variables affect disinfection frequency. Note that high disinfection frequency may result in a shortening of the life span of the textile. It is also important that you always follow the disinfectant manufacturer's label and instructions. Failure to do so may cause discoloration, weakening, and/or pre-mature wear and may result in the voiding of the product warranty.

### **What precautions should I follow when disinfecting textiles?**

Whether it's textiles or any other surface, always wear gloves to make sure no disinfectant comes into contact with your skin. Also, wearing protective eyewear is recommended as a way to avoid splashes in your eyes. Most disinfectants will cause irritation if they come into contact with your skin. Always wash your hands after you finish using a disinfectant.

# Cleaning and disinfection RESOURCES

## **Guilford of Maine website**

<https://www.guilfordofmaine.com>

## **EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)**

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>

## **EPA: Six Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use**

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf>

## **CDC: Guideline on chemical disinfectants**

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/disinfection-methods/chemical.html>



Jane (9085)



# Guilford of Maine

A duvaltex brand

We are constantly working to design fabrics that offer you healthy and safe environments.  
**Guilford of Maine, textiles you can trust.**

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