



# SAFER AT HOME Guidance

## Cleaning and Quarantining Retail Products

May 8, 2020

**Disclaimer:** *Scientific understanding of the presence and longevity of novel coronavirus on surfaces is still developing. The guidance below represents the information available at this time but does not guarantee that items will be novel coronavirus-free. It's best to continue to look for and follow new guidance as it is available.*

Studies show that novel coronavirus can survive on hard surfaces for 3-5 days. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommends](#) that if a room or space has been quarantined (e.g. no entry by any person) for 7 days then additional cleaning and disinfecting is not necessary. However, routine cleaning and disinfecting should occur on a frequent basis. The virus has been found to live longer on metals and plastics than cardboard, suggesting that it has a shorter life on softer and porous surfaces. However, there is little information about how long the virus can survive on fabrics due to the extreme diversity of materials and manufacturing processes.

### Retail Product Requirements

- A. Restrict return policy to only items that can be properly sanitized prior to re-selling.
- B. Provide PPE for employees who are managing deliveries, returns, etc.
- C. Elevate and increase frequency of [cleaning practices](#), including sanitization of high touch areas.
- D. Increase the availability of hand sanitizer, wipes and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (including baskets/carts) for both employees and customers.
- E. Make supplies available for customers to participate in sanitizing surfaces and touched objects.
- F. Post signage for employees and customers on good hygiene and other sanitation practices.

Please review the full list of requirements at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/retail>

### Additional Public Health Recommendations

1. **Limit risk:** Limit or prohibit trying clothes on.
2. **You touch it, you buy it:** Post signs encouraging customers to only handle goods that they are certain they will purchase.
3. **Disinfection:** [Disinfect products and returned items](#) with hard surfaces that have been touched.
4. **Quarantine:** Quarantine means separating items that may be contaminated from those that are not. It is likely the easiest option. The data on how long is necessary is still inconclusive. Quarantine recommendation range widely:
  - Hard surfaces for at least 72 hours, 7 days is best.
  - Soft surfaces for at least 48 hours, 7 days is best.
  - Items can be quarantined together in the same space but newly quarantined items must not come in contact with items finishing quarantine.
5. **Laundering:** Washing clothing in a washing machine is an effective way to remove viral particles.
6. **Communicate:** Communicate to your customers the practices you have in place.

Public Health **strongly discourages** relying on the following methods for disinfection:

- **Steam:** Steam can kill the novel coronavirus, but it requires extended contact time - a steam wand is not sufficient. A steam cabinet could be adequate, though it is important to confirm effectiveness for disinfection purposes and directions from the manufacturer on proper use .
- **UV light:** UV light can kill the novel coronavirus but it's not easy to do correctly. UV light works well on hard, flat surfaces but is more challenging for garments. If using this method, confirm with the UV light manufacturer that it is appropriate for use with clothing and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for disinfection.

