

# CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PET SUPPLIES

Keep your pets and your family healthy by cleaning and disinfecting pet items regularly!

**Cleaning** physically removes dirt and germs from surfaces using soap or detergent. **Disinfecting** kills germs on surfaces using chemicals.



## When to clean and disinfect

Clean and disinfect your pet items as often as your own items. **For example:**



### Pet bowls

Clean after every use for wet food and every day for dry food and water



### Pet beds, blankets, and habitats

Clean every week



### Pet toys

Clean every month

**Cleaning is usually good enough for most pet items. Disinfecting is an additional step you can take in these situations:**

- For pet items that touch poop or pee
- If your pet or anyone in your household is more likely to get very sick from germs
- If your pet is sick
- If you have pet rodents, reptiles, or amphibians

## How to clean and disinfect

Most pet items have cleaning instructions on the packaging or tags. Follow the cleaning instructions.

**For pet items without cleaning instructions, you can use these methods:**



### Hard items, such as crates, bowls, rubber toys, and plastic toys

- Clean using soapy water
- Disinfect using bleach or using disinfectant wipes or spray
- For dishwasher-safe bowls or toys, you can clean and disinfect using a dishwasher



### Soft items, such as blankets, beds, clothes, plush toys, and rope toys

- Clean and disinfect using a washing machine and dryer

**Detailed instructions on the next page.**



## Important safety tips

1. **Always follow instructions on the disinfectant label**, including the directions on how to use the disinfectant effectively and how to safely handle it.
2. **Keep pets safe.** Keep them away from where you are cleaning or disinfecting, and securely store disinfectants out of their reach.
3. **If you clean or disinfect by hand**, you can use the kitchen sink for dog and cat bowls and toys. For other items, use a wash tub that is just for your pet, or a laundry sink or bathtub.
4. **Take extra care when touching cat litter boxes** if you have a weakened immune system or if you are pregnant or planning to get pregnant. Cat poop can contain a parasite that causes a disease called toxoplasmosis.



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# STEPS TO CLEAN AND DISINFECT PET ITEMS

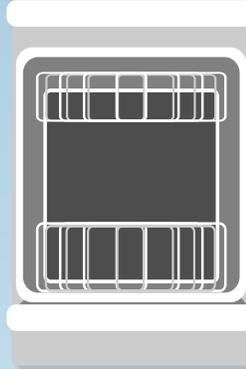


## Using soapy water



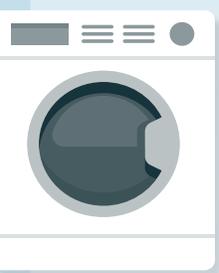
1. **Wash** items with soap or detergent and warm water.
2. **Scrub** with a sponge or brush.
3. **Rinse** with water to remove any remaining dirt and soapy water.
4. **Air dry** or wipe with a clean towel.

## Using a dishwasher



1. **Put dishwasher-safe items in a dishwasher.** It's okay to put pet items in the dishwasher with your dishes.
2. **Add dishwasher detergent.**
3. **Use any wash setting.** To disinfect, use the high temperature or sanitizing setting.
4. **Dry using any dry setting or air dry.** To disinfect, use the heat dry setting.

## Using a washing machine



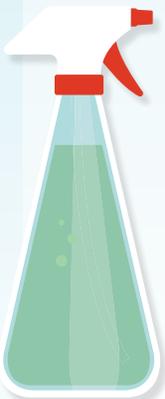
1. **Put items in a washing machine.** It's okay to put pet items in the washing machine with your clothes.
2. **Add laundry detergent.** Detergents with no dyes and no fragrance may be a better choice if your pet has sensitive skin.
3. **Use the appropriate cycle and water temperature** based on the type of fabric.
4. **Air dry or use a dryer.** To disinfect, use a dryer at the highest heat setting for 30 minutes.

## Using bleach solution



1. **Clean and scrub** with soapy water first to remove dirt.
2. **Rinse with water** to remove any remaining dirt and soapy water.
3. **Prepare a diluted bleach solution** by mixing 2 oz (1/4 cup) bleach and 1 gallon water.
4. **Disinfect the item** by soaking it in the bleach solution for at least 10 minutes. If the item is too big to soak, wipe it with the bleach solution and leave the solution on for at least 10 minutes.
5. **Rinse with water** to remove any remaining bleach solution.
6. **Let the item dry completely** (air dry or wipe dry with a clean towel) before letting your pet use it.

## Using disinfectant wipes or spray



1. **Use EPA-registered** disinfecting wipes or spray.
2. **Follow the instructions** exactly as written on the label.
3. **Make sure to leave the disinfectant on** for the time stated on the label.
4. **Let the disinfectant dry fully** before letting your pets use the item.
5. **To be safer,** you can wipe dry with a clean towel or wash the disinfectant away with water before letting your pet use the item.

For more information, scan the QR code.

