



Mecklenburg County Health Department

Child Care Center Cleaning Guide

Kitchen Cleaning

- Multi-use tableware (serving spoons, bowls etc.), including highchair-feeding trays, shall be washed, rinsed, and sanitized after each use.
- Multi-service articles (flatware, sippy cups, plates, etc.) shall be washed, rinsed, and sanitized after each use.
- Sinks should be cleaned and sanitized prior to use.
- Infant-toddler food service areas including, bottle warming devices, and countertops, must be cleaned and sanitized daily and as needed.
- Food-contact surfaces of equipment and utensils shall be washed, rinsed, and sanitized after each use.
 - Each time there is a change from raw to ready-to-eat foods.
 - Each time there is a change in processing between types of raw animal products, such as beef, fish, pork, and poultry.
 - After any substantial interruption of operations.
 - At the end of the day.
- Non-food contact surfaces (refrigerators and freezers, shelves, cabinets, etc.) shall be cleaned as often as needed.

Classroom Cleaning

- Periodically during the day, wash and sanitize doorknobs, tabletops, chairs, and other furniture to reduce circulating germs. Spray with soapy water to remove debris, wipe off with disposable paper towel, and then spray with a 50-200 PPM chlorine solution (sanitizer) until glistening wet, and allow surface to air dry for at least 2 minutes. Water sensitive furniture (i.e. wood bookcases, etc), should be cleaned by the most appropriate means each day.
- Toilet and lavatory fixtures shall be cleaned and **DISINFECTED**, when soiled, and at least daily with a solution of 500 PPM to 800 PPM chlorine (bleach) solution or other approved disinfectant. The toilet fixtures must be left glistening wet when using a bleach solution. Lavatories shall be cleaned and disinfected with each change of use.
- Common work areas such as play dough tables or water tables shall be cleaned and sanitized daily. Children should wash their hands prior to playing with common tables to avoid the introduction of germs in the water or play dough. Water in water tables shall be discarded after each play session and more often if visibly soiled. At least daily, water tables and associated toys shall be cleaned with soapy water, rinsed with clean water, and then soaked with a 50-200 ppm chlorine solution, or other approved sanitizer, for at least 2 minutes, and allow to air dry.
- Mat or cot linens shall be laundered when soiled and at least weekly. Linens in rooms caring for children less than 12 months of age shall be replaced and laundered when soiled and at least daily.
- Soiled laundry shall be handled and stored separately from clean laundry using separate and labeled cleanable containers.

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- Soiled cloth diapers, training pants or cloths shall be sent to a diaper service or placed in a tightly closed plastic bag or equivalent container approved by the Department, stored out of reach of children, and sent daily to the child's home to be laundered.
- Wash cloths, bibs, and burping cloths shall not be used more than once and shall be laundered when soiled and at least daily.
- "Dress up" clothes should be laundered when soiled and at least weekly, when used.
- Soiled clothing shall be stored in individual containers (e.g. tightly closed plastic bag or equivalent) approved by the Department, stored out of reach of children, and sent daily to the child's home to be laundered.

Toy Cleaning

- Toys in the infant and toddler rooms shall be cleaned and sanitized daily and as needed.
- Anything that is placed in a child's mouth must be cleaned and sanitized between children.
- Separate "dirty" and "clean" toy bins are recommended. (Store out of reach)
- Large items that are used daily shall be cleaned and, where applicable, sanitized daily. Otherwise, they should be cleaned at least weekly or after each use.
- All soiled toys shall be cleaned with soapy water to remove contamination, rinsed in clean water, and then submerged in a 50-200 PPM chlorine solution, or equivalent sanitizer water for at least 2 minutes. Toys should then be removed from the chlorine solution and allow to air dry.
- Plush toys must be washed in a clothes washing machine with hot water and mechanically dried.
- Hard plastic toys may be washed and rinsed in a dish washing machine, the kitchen sink, or in large plastic tubs.
- Toys, items, and surfaces not designed to be submerged shall be washed and rinsed in place, sprayed with a sanitizing solution, and allowed to air dry.

General Cleaning

- Vents must be cleaned when dust accumulates and at least weekly.
- Floors shall be cleaned when soiled and at least daily. Carpeted floors shall be vacuumed daily, when children are not in the room. Wall-to-wall carpet shall be cleaned using extraction method at least once each 6 months.
- Walls should be cleaned when soiled and at least weekly.
- Detail cleaning (behind equipment, and storage areas, etc.) should be performed monthly, or after any significant event such as flooding, pest control service, or extended interruption of operations.
- Storage areas (cabinets, closets, and storage rooms) should be cleaned as needed or at least weekly.

Outdoor Cleaning

- Outdoor playground areas shall be surveyed daily, prior to allowing children to enter, to ensure equipment and toys are clean and free of animal waste or debris. Toys and water tables shall meet same standards as inside in addition to storing water tables such that no water can accumulate in (e.g. invert, store under cover)