



MECKLENBURG COUNTY Health Department

How & When to Disinfect a Hand Washing Sink

How:

Option 1: To be used if sink is visibly soiled (if you can visibly see debris, grime, dirt, food particles, etc.)

1. Put on Latex or Vinyl Gloves (Gloves are optional, but recommended)
2. Clean the sink basin and faucet with soapy water
3. Wipe down the sink with a disposable paper towel
4. Spray the sink with a disinfectant and allow sink to air dry for at least 2 minutes
5. After spraying the sink with the disinfectant, return the soapy water and disinfectant spray bottles to their approved storage location.
6. Remove the gloves (if used).
7. After the disinfectant solutions air dries on the sink for 2 minutes, Wash your hands at the same sink. Or, wash your hands at a restroom sink. *(Note: If there is not a restroom sink that can be used (during this step) and you are the only caregiver available in the room, it is recommended that you use hand sanitizer on your hands just in case you need to assist a child while you are waiting on the disinfectant to air dry for 2 minutes. At the end of the two minutes you are still required to wash your hands)*

Option 2: To be used if sink is not visibly soiled

1. Spray the sink with a disinfectant and allow sink to air dry for at least 2 minutes
2. After spraying the sink with the disinfectant, return the disinfectant spray bottle to its approved storage location.
3. Sanitize your hands with hand sanitizer

When:

Examples of when you must clean and disinfect a hand washing sink:

1. If a hand washing sink is used as a dump sink (Disinfect sink after dumping)
2. If a food preparation area hand washing sink is used to clean and sanitize toys (Disinfect sink before and after toy cleaning)
3. If a hand washing sink is used for a tooth brushing activity (Disinfect sink before and after the group activity)
4. If a food preparation area hand washing sink is used to wash hands for any other hand washing activity. Example, A child washes their hands at the food preparation area hand washing sink due to all other sinks being occupied. (Disinfect sink after the hand washing event)
5. If a restroom hand washing sink is used to wash caregiver hands prior to handing out plated food from the kitchen (Disinfect sink before washing hands).
6. All sinks must be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each business day.

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