

Shared housing tenant letter, sent out in April 2020

CLEANING OF SHARED HOUSES

In a shared house the cleaning of the areas listed below, should be carried out DAILY by each tenant after they have used any communal area- bathroom, toilet, kitchen, living room, touched bannisters and door handles. Bedroom doors should always be kept closed.

It is NOT the responsibility of others to clean up after you. If you have an ongoing health condition, you should be cleaning these areas every time you use them to allow your co-tenants to live comfortably.

How to clean: During the coronavirus outbreak, enhanced cleaning methods and precautions are recommended to reduce the risk of infection, even when there are no suspected cases of coronavirus in the property.

Clean surfaces with warm soapy water: When cleaning, pay extra attention to 'high-touch' surfaces that are contacted frequently in daily life, including:

- Door handles, including front and back door
- Cupboard handles
- Light switches
- TV remotes
- Tables
- Countertops
- Stair rails
- Kitchen work surfaces, cooker, fridge/ freezer, and floors
- All bathroom surfaces including the bath, shower area, toilet, and walls

A two-step process is recommended for these surfaces, consisting of cleaning followed by disinfection. Cleaning with soap and water removes germs from the surfaces, while disinfection reduces the risk of infection by killing remaining germs. To clean hard surfaces, use warm soapy water and a clean microfibre cloth to wipe down the area.

Be careful when cleaning electrical sockets and light switches. Use as little moisture as possible by applying a small quantity of product to a cloth and using this to clean these surfaces.

Start cleaning the high surfaces, working your way down and out of each room, to avoid contaminating areas that you have already cleaned. Leave a bathroom until last, as this is where you will clean yourself and your cleaning tools at the end of the clean.

When returning to the property from your daily exercise or shopping trip: Avoid physical greetings, remove your shoes, or cover them with disposable covers. Once inside, avoid physical greetings and try to stay more than 2m away from anybody else in the property.

Then: Wash your hands with hot soapy water for at least 20 seconds. You can refer the [NHS guide to washing your hands](#) we have sent out previously.

- Once you have washed your hands, put on your disposable gloves, and optionally an apron
- Open windows and turn on extractor fans for ventilation
- Before cleaning, open any windows that you can for ventilation
- Vacuum all floors
- Before cleaning the floors, any visible dirt and debris should be vacuumed. Ensure that floors are cleaned right to the edges and into the corners.
- Mop hard floors, using warm water and a regular floor cleaning product
- To clean hard floors, fill a bucket with warm water and a product that is suitable for your floor's surface.
- Mop in a figure of 8 motion and work your way out of the room, to avoid contaminating previously cleaned areas of the floor.

Rubbish: Please also remember to place any rubbish in the appropriate bin to ensure that the refuse teams will take away your rubbish. i.e.: cardboard in recycling boxes not black, green, or brown bins.

It is important to note, these are actions that should be carried out daily at the house, regardless of the current health status.

Should you wish to discuss this further please contact Helen Kenyon, Housing Officer.