

Toy Disinfection Procedures

The disinfection of toys is vital to ensuring the health and safety of children as it reduces and mitigates the potential spread of germs and viruses among children and those who may come into contact with them.

All toys that are plush must be removed and not used in play, these include, stuffed animals, hand puppets, cloth toys etc. In addition, all sensory play is suspended, this includes (playdough and slime). All porous toys or materials that cannot be effectively cleaned and disinfected must be removed and not used in play.

Toy Washing Procedures - Cleaning and Disinfection using a Mechanical Dishwasher

It is recommended that the dishwasher be used for toy washing whenever possible:

- The rinse cycle must meet a minimum of **82 degrees Celsius**
- Only use the dishwasher in the kitchen when it is not being used for any other purposes (i.e. washing dishes, food preparation, serving)
- Toys are placed evenly on the dishwashing racks and are an appropriate size to ensure they will not fall into the basin
- Toys are removed carefully once the wash cycle is complete as they may be hot or contain hot water
- Toys are air dried in a designated area that is separate from bathrooms or change tables and protected from sources of contamination
- The kitchen is clean and tidy when you have completed toy washing

Toy Washing Procedures - Manual Cleaning and Disinfection

4 Bin – 5 Step Method for Disinfecting Toys using Oxivir Five 16 Concentrate (5 min contact time)

To ensure consistent and proper dilution of the Oxivir Five 16 Concentrate, **ONLY** custodial staff are assigned to mixing the solution for each child care centre. Custodial staff will drop off mixed product as required. Staff should use test strips to test the concentration of the Oxivir Five 16 in the jugs. Please refer to the Emergency Child Care Operation- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting Policy for testing information.

Small toys that can be immersed in water should use the 4 Bin- 5 Step method for washing. Please following the steps below:

1. Sink/Bin - wash with soap and warm water to clean visible dirt
2. Sink/Bin - rinse soap off with clean water
3. Sink/Bin - soak in Oxivir Five 16 Concentrate mixture for 5 minutes to disinfect
4. Sink/Bin - rinse using clean water
5. Air dry toys by placing them on a Drying Tray

Toy Washing Procedures - Cleaning and Disinfecting Large Toys/Equipment In-Place using Oxivir Tb Ready-To-Use (RTU) Spray & Wipes (1 min contact time)

Large toys, wooden toys, cots, cribs, etc. that cannot be immersed in a disinfectant solution should use this method for washing. Please follow the steps below:

1. Clean with soap and water using a cloth
2. Wipe with a clean wet cloth to rinse
3. Disinfect by spraying Oxivir Tb Ready-To-Use (RTU) or wipe with Oxivir Tb RTU wipes and let it sit for a **1-minute** (required 1 minute contact time). Do not spray product to toys and surfaces when children or other staff are nearby
4. A final rinse is required using a single-use wet paper towel
5. Allow toys to air dry

Tips & Reminders

- Fill the bucket only to a level that is comfortable for transporting to the area you use for toy washing – a trolley can also be used to assist with transporting.
- Unused test strips must be kept dry and in a dark space.
- When a new bottle of test strips is opened the date opened should be written on the bottle.
- Test strips expire six (6) months after the container is opened. Any unused test strips must be discarded after 6 months as it is no longer effective.
- Refer to the manufacturers label Oxivir Five 16 Concentrate and for Oxivir Tb Ready-TO-Use Spray for further information or review.

Frequencies and Toy Cleaning Schedules

- Toy cleaning schedules will be posted in each area and updated daily by the staff person responsible for the area.
- Toys, including large toys, cribs, cots equipment and high touch items will be cleaned and disinfected at least two times per day and as often as necessary i.e., when toys/items are visibly soiled or when toys/items have been contaminated with body fluids.
- Toys and items such as electronic devices should be cleaned and disinfected between users prior to redistributing.
- Refer to the Emergency Child Care Centres- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting Policy and Procedures for more guidance.

Handling used toys

- Toys that have become visibly dirty or that have come into contact with body fluids (e.g., toys that have been mouthed) should be taken out of circulation immediately and cleaned and disinfected immediately. Toys that cannot be cleaned and disinfected immediately should be placed in a designated dirty toy bin. The bin should be clearly labelled and inaccessible to children.

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees before commencing employment/unpaid placement in a TELCCS emergency child care centre, and at any time where a change is made.