

# COVID-19: PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING REUSABLE BAGS

Current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours or days on a variety of surfaces. Cleaning followed by disinfection is recommended by the CDC as a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings.

**At this time, there is no link between reusable bags and COVID-19. Reusable bags are not considered a significant risk factor in the spread of COVID-19 and as such do not need to be banned from stores.**

### CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PLASTIC AND NYLON BAGS

- Clean inside and outside of the bag with soapy water and rinse.
- Spray or wipe down the bags inside and out with diluted bleach solution (see below) or recommended disinfectant.
- Allow bags to air dry completely before storing and using.
- CDC recommends diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and compounds on the EPA-recommended list, found here: [go.ncsu.edu/epacovid-19](https://go.ncsu.edu/epacovid-19)

### CLEANING CLOTH BAGS

- Wash in warm water with normal laundry detergent.
- Dry on the warmest setting possible.
- See CDC guidelines on laundry [go.ncsu.edu/cdclaundry](https://go.ncsu.edu/cdclaundry)

### DILUTING BLEACH

- Follow manufacturer's label instructions for application and proper ventilation.
- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
  - 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water **OR**
  - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- Use containers of bleach that have been open no longer than 30 days, as bleach can break down over time.

**It is always a good practice to clean and disinfect shopping bags after each use, and to pay extra attention to bags used to carry raw animal products.**

