

Taking the Harm out of Germs

We can't make any environment germ-free — nor is it necessary. To keep our families healthy, we just need to reduce the risks of infection where and when germs are likely to spread. There are several ways to remove or destroy germs:

Washing — Often you can remove sufficient germs from an item using detergent and hot water, but you must wipe or scrub the item to loosen the dirt and germs, then rinse thoroughly under running water. This method is suitable for decontaminating items such as pots and pans, cutlery, and your hands.

Heating — Cooking food thoroughly will reduce the number of germs in food to a level that makes it safe to eat. Generally, the higher the temperature reached, the more germs are killed.

Disinfecting — Disinfectant cleaners are ideal for killing germs on surfaces throughout the home, such as kitchen counters, sinks, toilet, and bathroom tile. You can also use LYSOL® Disinfectant Sprays to also eliminate germs and odors on hard, nonporous surfaces that you come into contact with every day, such as doorknobs, toilet areas, and telephones.

Drying — Germs cannot live long on a clean, dry surface, but they love moisture. Remember that re-using damp dirty items such as cleaning cloths, towels, and mops can easily spread germs around your home.

Always remember these tips:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using cleaning products.
- Store cleaning products and other chemicals safely out of reach of children.
- Get all members of your school and family involved in establishing regular cleaning routines.