



Clean That Screen!

With some schools hosting in person classes, safety and sanitation are a top priority. Along with keeping the hallways squeaky clean, we cannot neglect that our in-class technology can be a hotbed for germs and bacteria. Coronavirus panic may have you reeling and unsure of how to properly go about disinfecting your tech without damaging the hardware. A pure bleach bath is out of the question, but what products can we use? S3 Technologies has the answers! Here is what our research uncovered:

The latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) states that while the current coronavirus is mainly transmitted through direct human contact over infected surfaces, cleaning commonly used items is still highly recommended to prevent other germs from spreading. Computers and other electronic devices are high-touch surfaces and should be cleaned often, particularly if multiple students/teachers use the same one.

Apple Product Guidelines: Apple has released detailed instructions for cleaning each of their products. The universal tips state the following:

- Unplug and shutdown first. Disconnect your devices from all external power sources, connected devices, or cables.
- Use a soft, lint-free cloth. Abrasive fabrics and paper towels run the risk of scratching the tempered glass. Wearing disposable gloves while cleaning is preferable but washing your hands before cleaning sessions is also a valid option.
- Avoid excessive wiping. Much like cleaning windows, constantly rubbing the glass will not leave your device 'extra clean', but rather extra streaky.
- Do not get any moisture in the device openings. Liquids are the ultimate villain of technology hardware.
- Circumvent this risk by remembering not to directly spray your devices! Please only put product on your cloth.
- Aerosol sprays, bleaches, and abrasives may help clean your home, but will wreak havoc on your Apple products. Save the heavy-duty cleaners for your sinks and bathtubs!
- Can you use isopropyl alcohol wipes or Clorox wipes? Yes! Apple states that these wipes can be used to gently wipe the hard, nonporous surfaces of your devices.
- They are not recommended for fabric or leather cases, though, so be sure to remove your case! Regarding leather cases, Apple warns that cleaning may affect color. If you choose to clean your cases, use a clean cloth with warm water and mild hand soap.
- Apple Desktop and Laptop Computers: Apple recommends cleaning the displays for these devices with water only. For devices with touch screens, it is highly encouraged to consider attaching covers that can be wiped clean without the risk of damaging the screen itself!

Google Chromebook Guidelines: Properly cleaning a Chromebook follows similar instructions to cleaning an Apple device:

- Turn off the device and unplug from all external power sources, devices, and cables.
- Use a soft lint-free cloth.
- For the screen, LCD-safe solutions such as 50% isopropyl alcohol (diluted with distilled water) can be used. Never use products containing ammonia and never use any solutions containing acetone or ethyl alcohol.
- For the keyboard and external frame, please lightly dampen your cloth with 70% isopropyl alcohol.



- Wait until the solution has completely dried. While the alcohol is not conductive, the water in your solution runs the risk of harming the device if turned on before the solution has dried. Protect those ports!

Different devices may require different cleaning processes. If the manufacturer's instructions aren't available online, use an alcohol-based wipe or a 70 percent ethanol spray on a cloth to clean electronics while still following the protocols of unplugging, turning off, and avoiding liquid seeping into ports.

Looking Forward

While research is still being conducted, it is unknown how long coronavirus lives on surfaces. The current estimate believes that it can live on tech devices from 3 days up to a week if not properly sanitized. Luckily, proper cleaning procedure appears to be effective at keeping users safe. According to the Journal of Hospital Infection, disinfectants containing a solution of ethanol (62-71% alcohol), hydrogen peroxide (0.5% hydrogen peroxide), or sodium hypochlorite (0.1% bleach) can kill the virus in only one minute.

As we adjust to the new normal, we must remember to approach the pandemic with rational and relaxed thinking. Being cautious is smart; being panicked is not. Inconvenience is a far easier price to pay than illness. Upping our health and hygiene standards keeps our schools safer. We can work together to get through this!

Other Resources

"Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 27 May 2020, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html.

"How to Clean Your Apple Products." *Apple Support*, 29 Apr. 2020, support.apple.com/en-us/HT204172?mod=article_inline#ipadaccessories.

Kampf, G., et al. "Persistence of Coronaviruses on Inanimate Surfaces and Their Inactivation with Biocidal Agents." *Journal of Hospital Infection*, vol. 104, no. 3, 1 Mar. 2020, pp. 246–251., [doi:10.1016/j.jhin.2020.01.022](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2020.01.022).

Seladi-Schulman, Jill. "How Long Does the Coronavirus Last on Surfaces?" *Healthline*, Healthline Media, 27 May 2020, www.healthline.com/health/how-long-does-coronavirus-last-on-surfaces#how-to-clean.



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