

Clean, sanitize, or disinfect?

This table shows areas in a child care center with the processes you should use to keep the area as germ-free as needed. California child care licensing regulations specify when and where you should clean, sanitize, or disinfect. Some areas are not specified in regulation. In these cases, we include best practices based on the national standards although these are not required. The best practices are taken from Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Appendix K at <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/> Be sure to always follow the licensing requirements.

Area	Required for child care centers			Best practice*, if more stringent
	Process	Frequency	Code section	
Food preparation and dining areas				
Food preparation area	Clean	As needed	Title 22 §101227(a)(14) & (18)	Clean and sanitize before and after each use
Eating utensils and dishes	Clean and sanitize	After use	Title 22 §101227(a)(21)&(21)(A)&(B)	
Highchairs and feeding chairs	Clean and disinfect	After use	Title 22 §101439(f)	
Tables	Not specified			Clean and sanitize before and after use
Food serving surfaces	Not specified			Clean and sanitize before and after use
Infant care				
Diaper changing table and pads	Clean and disinfect	After use	Title 22 §101428(d)(7)	
Diaper changing area (surrounding area including walls, floors, dispensers, countertops, sinks, drawers and cabinets)	Clean and disinfect	After use or if soiled	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(4)	
Mouthed toys and pacifiers	Clean and disinfect	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(d)	
Floors (not carpet)	Clean and disinfect	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(1)	
Small rugs	Vacuum or shake out	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(2)(A)	
	Washed	Weekly		

*Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Appendix K <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/>

Area	Required for child care centers			Best practice*, if more
Carpeted floors and large rugs (if cannot be washed)	Vacuum	Daily	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(2)	Clean monthly in infant areas
	Clean	2x/year		
Walls and partitions	Clean and disinfect	Weekly	Title 22 §101438.1(c)(3)	
Toilet areas				
Potty chairs	Clean and disinfect	After each use	Title 22 §101428(e)(2)	
Handwashing sinks and faucets	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101239(e)(4)	Clean and disinfect daily
Toileting countertops	Maintained sanitary	Maintained		Clean and disinfect daily
Toilets	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101239(e)(4)	Clean and disinfect daily
Floors	Maintained sanitary	Maintained	Title 22 §101238(a)	Clean and disinfect daily
Sleeping areas				
Napping equipment	Clean and disinfect	Weekly or if soiled	Yes Title 22 §101239.1(b)(4)	
Sheets	Clean	Weekly or if soiled	Yes Title 22 §101239.1(c)(3)	
Blankets	Clean or Change	If soiled	Title 22 §101239.1(c)(4)	Clean monthly
General child care areas (not infant)				
Entire center	Clean and sanitary	At all times	Title 22 §101238(a)	
Floors	Not specified			Clean daily
Carpet	Not specified			Vacuum daily, clean when soiled
Door handles and light switches	Not specified			Clean and disinfect daily
Drinking fountains	Not specified			Clean and disinfect daily
Play activity centers	Not specified			Clean weekly
Dress-up clothes	Not specified			Clean weekly