

How Long Can COVID-19 Live on Surfaces?

Knowing when and how often to clean and disinfect surfaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19 may be determined based on how long the virus may be viable on each surface. This can help also to determine other control measures that may need to be implemented.

Below is a list of surfaces and the time frame in which it has been found the virus can remain active and can be a source of infection.

Surface	Surface Time	Examples
Plastic	3 - 7 Days	Food packaging, water bottles, milk containers, credit cards, remote controls, light switches, computer keyboards and mouse, fertilizer bags, chemical & pesticide containers, bale wrap, greenhouse film, tubing and pipes, grain bags, silage bags, twine, nursery containers, etc.
Metal – Stainless Steel	3 - 7 Days	Door handles, refrigerators, metal handrails, keys, cutlery, pots and pans, packaging plant material and equipment, hand tools, farm equipment, bulk milk tank, other storage tanks, fences, gates, feeding & watering containers, etc.
Metal - Copper	Up to 4 Hours	Coins, cookware, jewelry, electrical wires, pipe, etc.
Paper - Money	Up to 4 Days	Paper money, dollar bills
Paper - Other	Up to 3 Hours	Letters/stationary, magazines and newspaper, tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.
Glass	Up to 4 Days	Windows, mirrors, bottles, drinkware, TV screens, computers, phones, etc.
Cardboard	24 Hours	Food Packaging, material packaging, shipping boxes, etc.
Wood	2 Days	Tabletops, furniture, picnic tables, shelving, fences, plywood, hand tool handles, etc.

Reference: <https://www.healthline.com/health/how-long-does-coronavirus-last-on-surfaces#temperature>

With ongoing research and evaluation, these timelines may vary depending on the source and method of research. Use these timelines as a general guideline based on the reference provided.