

These FAQs are provided to commercial, industrial, and institutional customers free of charge and as a courtesy for potential purchasers of 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes. You should refer to 3M published product specifications for more detailed information regarding the 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes. These FAQs are intended only for use by persons with the knowledge and technical skills to analyze, handle, and use such information. You must evaluate and determine whether the wipes are suitable for your intended application and 3M makes no warranties to you related to these FAQs (expressed or implied). Version: These FAQs replace and supersede all previous versions.

1. What is unique about 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes?

3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes contain a 3M patented technology that allows the wipe to remove, trap and hold surface microbes. When moistened with just water, the wipe removes a minimum of 99.9% of microbes* from hard, non-porous surfaces. Microbe removal occurs immediately as the surface is wiped. 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes incorporate proprietary technology so, when moistened, they electrostatically remove, entrap and retain microbes. The wipes possess a net positive charge on their fibers while microbes have a net negative charge. When these charges interact, the microbes become trapped within the wipe, virtually eliminating their release as well as the potential for cross-contamination among surfaces. This technology enables a single moistened wipe to be used effectively on multiple surfaces prior to disposal. Also, because microbes are trapped in the wipe rather than pushed to surface edges, cracks or crevices, establishment of reservoirs and breeding grounds for pathogens can be decreased. The complete list of microbes that have been tested for efficacy is found in the 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes technical Product Bulletin, which can be obtained from your local 3M sales representative.

2. Are 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes antibacterial, antiviral, or antimicrobial?

No, the wipes do not contain antibacterial, antiviral, antimicrobial agents, or biocides. This wipe itself and when used with only water does not claim to have disinfectant properties and is not a disinfectant.

3. What is the difference between killing microbes and removing them? Are they the same thing?

They are not the same thing. Disinfectants and sanitizers perform to a level of efficacy that relates to destroying or killing microbes from a hard, non-porous surface. 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes physically remove microbes from hard, non-porous surfaces. When using a disinfectant, if the surface does not remain wet for the labeled contact time, any microbes that are not killed will remain on the surface and could be transferred to other surfaces. Physically removing microbes refers to the mechanical action of trapping and holding microbes so that they cannot be transferred to other surfaces. When 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes are used in combination with a compatible disinfectant, you are killing microbes per the respective disinfectants label while removing them with 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes.

4. On what type of surface can 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes be used?

The wipes can be used on all hard, non-porous surfaces including metals, ceramics, laminates, plastics, etc. While it can be used on soft or textured surfaces, we cannot guarantee its removal performance.

*Based on third party laboratory testing

5. How is 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes used with just water different from disinfecting wipes?

3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes quickly remove a minimum of 99.9% of microbes* from a hard, non-porous surface. There is no dwell time required and it uses mechanical action to remove the microbes with just water. Disinfecting wipes kill microbes on the surface, however, in order to kill 99.9% or more of the microbes, disinfecting wipes generally require the user to keep the surface wet anywhere from 1 to 10 minutes in order for the active ingredient in the disinfecting wipes to kill the microbes, according to the specific product label. If the surface is not saturated enough to remain wet for the recommended contact time, you may not kill all the microbes and risk spreading them to other surfaces.

6. Can I use 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes dry?

No, 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes require the wipe to be wet in order to achieve its substantiated removal performance. The wipe must be fully saturated to enable the full removal performance. The liquid enables the net positive charge of the wipe and the net negative charge of the microbes to interact. When these charges interact, the microbes become trapped within the wipe, virtually eliminating their release as well as the potential for cross-contamination among surfaces.

7. How is it possible for 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes to remove 99.9% of SARS-CoV-2* (the virus that causes COVID-19) with just water?

3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes contain a 3M patented technology that allows the wipe to remove, trap and hold this virus. This has been proven through testing with a third party on hard, non-porous surfaces. It's not magic, it's 3M science!

8. Do 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes remove 99.9% of other microbes* with just water?

Yes! This technology allows 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes to remove, trap and hold all sorts of microbes including viruses and bacteria from hard, non-porous surfaces. The complete list of microbes is found in 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes technical Product Bulletin, which can be obtained from your local 3M sales representative.

9. Variants of the virus that cause COVID-19 have recently been documented globally. What does this mean for the 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes?

Multiple variants of the virus that cause COVID-19 are circulating globally. Public health officials are studying these variants quickly to learn more to control their spread. 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes have only been tested against USA-WA1/2020 SARS-CoV-2 (currently the most predominant variant). Current guidelines have advised that physical properties of the variants of SARS-CoV-2 have not changed with genetic mutations. Until further information is available, we recommend that 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes be used strictly in accordance with their directions. Users should continue to implement rigorous and increased compliance with public health mitigation strategies, such as vaccination, physical distancing, use of masks, hand hygiene, isolation, and quarantine, all of which are essential to limit the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 and protect public health.

*Based on third party laboratory testing

10. How do I properly use 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes?

Reference 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes How To Guides, which can be obtained from your local 3M sales representative.

11. Can I apply compatible liquid to the surface or to the 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes and then start the cleaning procedure?

Yes, although if the instructions for use are followed for 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes, the wipe canister or bucket will have been filled with water or compatible liquid prior to application and no additional liquid is required. Always remember that the wipe must be fully saturated to enable the claimed removal performance. Some products and disinfectants may require spraying or applying directly to a surface. Review and follow all product labels and instructions for use.

12. Am I required to wear PPE like gloves, a respirator, or eyewear?

Follow all facility cleaning practices and PPE requirements that are mandated by both facility protocol and laws and regulations.

3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes themselves should not require the use of PPE.

- a. 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes are an article that does not have, nor does it require a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or specific PPE recommendation.
- b. In accordance with criteria published in the UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes are classified as non-hazardous to human health.
- c. Skin contact during normal intended use of the wipe with water alone is not expected to cause skin irritation.

When used with chemicals or disinfectants it is recommended that you follow the respective chemical SDS for proper PPE guidance. Always check your national and/or local regulations for specific guidance on the use of PPE.

13. Do I need to wash my hands after using 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes?

As with any cleaning process, it is recommended to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds thoroughly with soap and water after performing cleaning, disinfecting, or processes relating to facility maintenance.

14. What is the typical coverage of a single 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipe?

Typical coverage, or the surface area wetness, on a hard; non-porous surface of a single appropriately prepared 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipe is 4.65 sq. meters. There are factors that may affect overall surface coverage of the wipe. Such factors may include, but are not limited to, surface condition, cleaning process, wipe preparation, facility engineering controls, and soil load on the surface.

15. How do I know when 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes should be disposed?

While the wipe can be used on multiple surfaces without being fully loaded with microbes, the wipes should be disposed of when they are visibly dirty, contaminated, or no longer wet. They should be properly disposed of per the facility disposal requirements.

16. How do I dispose of 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes?

The wipes are intended to be disposed of after use, per the facility disposal requirements.

17. What are some locations where 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes are best used?

When used with water, 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes are great for hard, non-porous surfaces in high touch, fast turnaround areas where chemicals are either not available or not advised to be used. These innovative wipes have applications in numerous market segments including education, offices, factories and warehouses; retail, hospitality, transportation and many more. Some examples of locations or items to be cleansed include, but are not limited to: door knobs, classroom desks, workstations, shopping cart handles, retail checkout lanes, registration desks and for hard, non-porous surfaces in ride-sharing vehicles.

18. What chemicals should NOT be used with the 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes?

DO NOT use the wipes with bleach (sodium hypochlorite), chlorine-based disinfectants (such as sodium dichloroisocyanurate (NaDCC) or chlorine dioxide), hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid, other strong oxidizers, aldehydes or lactic acids as these will render the microbe removal technology ineffective.

19. What chemicals could 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes be used with?

The wipes are compatible with the following types of disinfectants: quats (quaternary ammonium compounds), alcohols, ethanol and phenolics. It can also be used with cleaning products comprised of the same chemical families. For a list of compatible 3M quat disinfectants, see the 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes Product Bulletin.

20. Do 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes “quat bind”?

No, the wipes do not bind with disinfectant active ingredients composed of quaternary ammonium compounds.

21. Are 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes compatible with non-disinfectant, common cleaning products?

Yes, the wipes are compatible with common cleaning products. The wipes should not be used with bleach or peroxide based cleaners or disinfectants as communicated in the previous question.

22. Why are 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes sold dry?

3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes are sold dry to allow the user to add water or another compatible liquid of their choice. Additionally, shipping the product without liquid allows for greatly efficiency and cost savings for the end user.

23. How wet do 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes need to be?

The wipes container has directions as to how much liquid is recommended to be added into the container. It may be necessary to adjust the amount of liquid added to a wipe bucket or the canister in order to obtain the desired wipe saturation level. Refer to the container label and 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes Product Bulletin for more detailed use instructions.

24. If 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes dry out, can I re-wet and continue to use them?

Yes, if the wipes dry out, unused dry wipes in the container can be remoistened with the same liquid used originally. DO NOT re-wet used wipes, please dispose of them if they dry out. See specific instructions in 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes Product Bulletin, which can be obtained from your local 3M sales representative.

25. Do I need to pre-clean a surface prior to using 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes?

If the surface is visibly dirty, it is recommended to pre-clean. Refer to local regulatory guidance/protocols/standards for proper pre-cleaning procedures.

26. What is the shelf life of 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes?

The shelf life as defined below remains an indicative and maximum data, subject to many external and non-controllable factors. It may never be interpreted as warranty. For dry wipes, the shelf life is 2 years from the date of manufacture. For wipes with water in the container, lab testing indicates a shelf life of up to 3 months, but this cannot be guaranteed due to variability in water sources and the potential for organisms to contaminate the container. For wipes with disinfectant in the container, the shelf life is the same as the ready-to-use disinfectant shelf life. If wipes are visibly dirty or known to be contaminated they should not be used and should be properly disposed of.

27. Can the canister or bucket be reused?

Yes, 3M is offering refill rolls for both the canister and bucket offerings. Please refer to the Product Bulletin and respective How To Guide for detailed instructions on proper preparation.

28. Can 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes be laundered?

No, the wipes are intended to be disposed of after use, per the facility disposal requirements.

29. Can 3M™ Microbe Removing Wipes be composted?

No, the wipes cannot be composted.

30. Can 3M™ Microbe Removing Wipes be used on food contact surfaces?

No, the wipes are not approved for use on direct food contact surfaces. The 3M™ Instant Microbe Removing Wipes are appropriate for use in food facilities that operate in accordance with a HACCP based Food Safety Program, within the splash and spill zone (SSZ) for the facility. Note that the wipes are effective to use on non-food contact surfaces.

31. What is HACCP Splash and Spill Zone (SSZ) Certification?

The splash/spill zone is any area in a food handling facility, or any part of a food handling device, which could come into contact with splashed or spilled food that cannot re-enter the food product stream.

32. What should I do when I want to dispose of the empty canister or bucket of 3M™ Microbe Removing Wipes?

Properly dispose of the empty canister or bucket per local waste disposal facility guidance. If the canister or bucket is damaged this same procedure should be followed. It is encouraged to review the recycling code located on the underside or bottom of the container.

Limited Remedy

3M recommended product end uses are listed in each 3M product bulletin.

End uses not listed in the applicable 3M Product Bulletins are typically not eligible for 3M Warranties.

- For all product end uses (recommended or not recommended), user remains solely responsible for evaluating, testing and approving this 3M product and determining whether it is appropriate and suitable for customer's application.
- For non-recommended and/or non-warranted end uses or applications, users must assume any associated risks, and acknowledge that 3M has no liability for such end uses or applications.

Please contact your 3M representative with any questions about end uses and warranties.

Limitations of liability

All questions of warranty and liability relating to this product are governed by the terms and conditions of the sale, subject, where applicable, to the prevailing law.

Health and Safety

When handling any chemical products, read the manufacturer's container labels and the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for important health, safety and environmental information.

Follow the link to obtain SDS sheets for 3M products on 3M.com/SDS.

IMPORTANT! When using any equipment, always follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

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