

Dog Enclosure Sanitation

General Sanitation Practices

- Prior to performing sanitation of dog enclosures, dogs should be observed for changes in physical and behavioral health and findings documented as appropriate.
- Individuals performing sanitation should wear appropriate, clean, protective outerwear and care should be taken to properly [don and doff attire](#).
- Each animal housing area should have designated, labeled cleaning equipment for use exclusively in that area. Such equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use.
- In most situations, and especially for dogs that are anxious, fearful, or stressed, [spot cleaning](#) is the preferred method for daily care.



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Indications for Sanitation

- After all dogs have left the enclosure and new dog(s) will be housed in the enclosure
- When the enclosure is heavily soiled**
- Minimum of every 2 weeks when dogs are housed long-term in the same enclosure.
- When the occupant has been diagnosed or exposed to an infectious disease

**If the enclosure is heavily soiled, e.g. food has been smeared over large areas, but the risk of infectious disease is LOW and the same dog(s) will be returning to the enclosure, the application of disinfectant may be eliminated.

Supplies

- Gloves & outerwear that covers arms
- Detergent & disinfectant products
- Hose-end foamer/garden sprayer
- Poop scooper
- Squeegee
- Scrub brushes
- Clean enclosure supplies

Step-by-Step

1. Remove occupant from kennel or confine them to a physically separate compartment.
2. Remove food and water bowls, cage furnishings, and toys and place in the designated area for disposal or sanitation as appropriate.
3. Using a poop scooper or gloved hand and plastic bag remove all visible solid contaminants (e.g. food, feces, vomit, etc.) from kennel.
4. Apply detergent* using a hose-end foamer or garden sprayer, coating all surfaces of enclosure including both sides of the door.
5. Physically scrub all surfaces of the enclosure using a deck brush or hand-held scrub brush.
6. Rinse all surfaces with clean water.
7. If pooling of water is evident, use squeegee to remove pooled water from enclosure.
8. Apply disinfectant solution using a hose-end foamer or garden sprayer, thoroughly coating all surfaces of enclosure including both sides of the door. Check dilution on hose-end foamer prior to application.
9. Allow appropriate contact time based on product label.
10. Rinse all surfaces with clean water.
11. If pooling of water is evident, use squeegee and/or clean towel to dry all animal contact surfaces.
***If squeegee was used in step 7, make sure to disinfect it or use a clean one for this step.*
12. Re-set kennel and/or return occupant to enclosure.

***Some products have both detergent and disinfectant properties; therefore, the same product can be used for both cleaning (step 4) and disinfection (step 8). Even when using a dual-purpose product, it is important to perform both the cleaning and disinfection step to ensure appropriate sanitation.**