

# Cleaning Recommendations for Giardiasis

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*Giardia* is hard to completely eliminate from the environment.

Cleaning and disinfecting can help remove *Giardia* germs from a space where a person or [pet](#) was recently sick. Reduce the chances of getting sick, or your pet getting sick again, by cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and items.

**Always follow the directions on cleaning and disinfection product labels.**

**Hard (Non-Porous) Surfaces** (for example, tile floors, pet crates, tables, trash cans)

## Cleaning

- Wear gloves.
- Remove poop and discard it in a plastic bag.
- Clean and scrub surfaces using soap or a detergent solution. Rinse surface thoroughly until no obvious visible contamination is present.

## Disinfection

- Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use a household disinfectant.
- Always be sure to follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
- Disinfect according to manufacturer guidelines using **one** of the following:
  - Quaternary ammonium compound products (QATS), which are found in some household cleaning products; the active ingredient may be listed as alkyl dimethyl ammonium chloride.
  - Bleach mixed with water (3/4 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water).
- Many products recommend:
  - Keeping surfaces wet for a period of time (see product label).
  - Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

## **Soft (Porous) Surfaces** (for example, carpeted floor, rugs, drapes) **Cleaning**

- Wear gloves
- If poop is on carpet or upholstered furniture, remove it with absorbent material (for example, double-layered paper towels).
- Place and discard the poop in a plastic bag.
- Clean the contaminated area with regular detergent or carpet cleaning agent.
- Allow carpet or upholstered furniture to fully dry.

## **Disinfection**

- Wear gloves.
- Steam clean the area at 158°F for 5 minutes or 212°F for 1 minute.
- QATS are found in some carpet cleaning products and can also be used after cleaning to disinfect. Read the product labels for specifications, and follow all instructions.
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## **Other Items (toys, clothing, pet bed, etc.)**

- Household items should be cleaned and disinfected daily if a dog or cat is being treated for *Giardia* infection.
- Dishwasher-safe toys and water and food bowls can be disinfected in a dishwasher that has a dry cycle or a final rinse that exceeds **one** of the following:
  - 113°F for 20 minutes
  - 122°F for 5 minutes
  - 162°F for 1 minute
  - If a dishwasher is not available, submerge dishwasher-safe items in boiling water for at least 1 minute (at elevations above 6,500 feet, boil for 3 minutes).

## **Dishwasher**

- Dishwasher-safe toys and water and food bowls can be disinfected in a dishwasher that has a dry cycle or a final rinse cycle.
  - If a dishwasher is not available, submerge dishwasher-safe items in boiling water for at least 1 minute (at elevations above 6,500 feet, boil for 3 minutes).

## **Laundry**

- Clothing, some pet items (for example, bedding and cloth toys), and linens (sheets and towels) can be washed in the washing machine and then heat-dried on the highest heat setting for 30 minutes.
- If a clothes dryer is not available, allow clothes to thoroughly air dry under direct sunlight.

Clean and disinfect your **pool/hot tub** in this way:

## **Cleaning**

- Wear gloves.
- Remove feces and discard in a plastic bag.

## **Disinfection**

- Wear gloves.
- Raise free chlorine concentration to 1.0 ppm for 45 minutes or 2.0 ppm for 25-30 minutes or 3.0 ppm for 19 minutes.