



TECHIE TIPS

With the likelihood that we might encounter a second wave of COVID 19, I thought this might be timely for members and their friends.

DISINFECTING WOOD FURNITURE TO FIGHT COVID 19

Wood furniture is found in many places, and used as anything from the kitchen table to an end table in the bedroom. Coronavirus can live on wood furniture for up to four days and can be transmitted to another person, which makes it important to clean and disinfect these surfaces.

Making a Disinfectant Solution for Wooden Surfaces

Bleach solution (1part bleach 9 parts water) is usually used to disinfect ceramic, plastic and metal surfaces, **but can damage wooden surfaces.**

The best ingredient for wood surfaces is alcohol. According to health experts, the solution that can destroy the coronavirus should be a **70 percent alcohol concentration.**

Common methylated spirit (denatured alcohol) or 'metho*' is at least 95% ethanol but needs to be diluted with water to 70% alcohol content (7 parts alcohol and three parts water) to effectively kill the virus and not just hibernate it.

Warning

Industrial Alcohol (methanol) is ineffective against coronaviruses and it is highly toxic for humans.

How to Disinfect Wood Furniture Step by Step

You can disinfect wooden furniture with these three simple steps:

Step1: Making the Disinfectant Solution

Fill a 5 cup spray bottle with 3.5 cups metho*, and add 1.5 cups water and about five drops dishwashing soap if the wood is soiled. The soap works as an added cleaning element.

Step 2: Spray the Solution

Spray the disinfectant solution onto the wood furniture shielding any fabric. Let it stand and after one minute wipe off with a damp cleaning rag. Using a damp rag removes any water-mark left by the soap.

Note: It is advisable to conduct a small test patch on a remote area before proceeding.

Step 3: Drying

Wipe the surface of the furniture with a dry cleaning rag to remove any excess moisture.

Key Points

The **coronavirus** can survive for up to 4 days on wooden surfaces such as furniture.

The best way to disinfect wooden surfaces is ethanol and water solution.

The best percentage of ethanol to eliminate the coronavirus is 70%.

If you have 95%+ alcohol, you should dilute it with water at a ratio of 7 parts ethanol to 3 parts water and use it as a disinfectant for your wooden furniture.

Methanol does not work in this case and bleach can damage wooden surfaces.

It is advisable to conduct a small test patch on a remote area before proceeding.

*Metho (methylate spirits) is available at most hardware chains in 1 and 2 litre bottles.