COVID-19: GUIDANCE ON CLEANING PRODUCTS AND USE OF PPE WHILE CLEANING

The EPA / CDC have an excellent guide on cleaning and disinfecting for workplaces and returning to work. This can be obtained by visiting the following link: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/316485-c_reopeningamerica_guidance_4.19_6pm.pdf

In addition, the EPA has “List N”: Disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19): https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

1) Find the EPA registration number on the product label.
2) Enter into the “EPA Registration Number” box at the bottom of the page in the link.

If the product is on this list, it is EPA approved as disinfecting against SARS-CoV-2

Anytime chemicals are used for cleaning, it is important to understand and protect against the hazards associated with the chemical being used.

There are a few ways this can be done:

1) Read the product label on the primary container, holding the contents of the chemical. This will communicate hazards, dilution, application, contact time and other special considerations (when the label and the SDS have different language, the label takes precedence).

2) Read the SDS (Safety Data Sheet) that accompanies the shipped cleaning product.
   a. Read through the entire SDS to gain a Comprehensive understanding
   b. Pay special attention to:
      Section 2: Hazard Identification
      Section 3: Composition / information on ingredients
      Section 4: First Aid in case of overexposure
      Section 7: Handling and storage
      Section 8: Exposure control and Personal Protective Equipment

3) Focus on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
   a. Adequate ventilation should be available when using chemicals (for example do not use very strong cleaners in a small area with no ventilation)
   b. Gloves should be worn while working with some chemicals; select the proper type of glove based on the label and SDS. When removing gloves it is important to take them off in a way that minimizes contamination: see 2 min video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xueBYEIfEg
   c. If the cleaning agent is strong or corrosive, and has the potential to be aerosolized, consider wearing safety goggles or a face shield for protection of the eyes
   d. Always wash hands very well after using any chemicals