

# How long do the Coronaviruses last on surfaces?

Here's a guide to how long coronaviruses - the family of viruses that includes the one that causes COVID-19 can live on some of the surfaces you probably touch on a daily basis.



 <p><b>Metal</b> Examples: doorknobs, jewelry, iron</p> <p><b>5 days</b></p>	 <p><b>Stainless Steel</b> Examples: refrigerators, pots and pans, silverware, keys, sinks, industrial equipment and some water bottles</p> <p><b>Up to 28 days</b></p>
 <p><b>Aluminum</b> Examples: Soda cans, tinfoil, water bottles</p> <p><b>2 to 8 hours</b></p>	 <p><b>Cardboard</b> Examples: shipping boxes, food packaging</p> <p><b>24 hours</b></p>
 <p><b>Wood</b> Examples: tabletops, furniture, shelving, decking</p> <p><b>4 days</b></p>	 <p><b>Printed Paper</b> Examples: letter stationary, magazines, newspapers, take-out food bags, tissues, paper towel, toilet paper</p> <p><b>Up to 3 hours</b></p>
 <p><b>Plastics</b> Examples: milk containers and detergent bottles, remote controls, light switches, elevator buttons, ATM buttons, toys, bank/credit cards</p> <p><b>Up to 3 days</b></p>	 <p><b>Polymer and paper banknotes (money)</b></p> <p><b>Up to 28 days</b></p>
 <p><b>Glass</b> Examples: drinking glasses, measuring cups, mirrors, windows, screens for TVs, computers, and smartphones</p> <p><b>Up to 28 days</b></p>	 <p><b>Copper</b> Examples: pennies, tea kettles, cookware</p> <p><b>4 hours</b></p>
 <p><b>Cotton</b> Examples: clothing, beddings, and household fabrics</p> <p><b>14 days</b></p>	 <p><b>Food</b> Coronavirus does not seem to spread through exposure to food</p> <p><b>Does not spread through food</b></p>
 <p><b>Water</b> Coronavirus has not been found in drinking water. If it does get into the water supply, your local water treatment plant filters and disinfects the water, which should kill any germs.</p> <p><b>Not found in water</b></p>	 <p><b>Ceramics</b> Examples: dishes, pottery, mugs</p> <p><b>5 days</b></p>

\*\*The duration of survival depends on the temperature and relative humidity. The lower the temperature and relative humidity, the longer the duration of survival. Similarly, the higher the temperature and relative humidity, the lower the duration of survival.

## What can you do?

- Disinfect all surfaces and objects in your home and workstation daily with a household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water, especially after visiting the grocery store or bringing in packages.

References: (Click on links)

1. [The effect of temperature on persistence of SARS CoV 2 on common surfaces](#) Shane Riddell\*, Sarah Goldie, Andrew Hill, Debbie Eagles and Trevor W. Drew.
2. [Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-19](#)
3. [Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in different environmental conditions](#)
4. [How Long Does the Coronavirus Live on Surfaces?](#)