

How Long Can COVID-19 Last on Corrugated Surfaces?

Over the last couple of weeks, the Fibre Box Association (FBA) has been monitoring the rapidly-evolving COVID-19 pandemic. The overall well-being of FBA's member companies, their employees, our staff and the entire corrugated packaging industry has been at the core of the association's mission since our founding in 1940. At this time, FBA remains open and will continue to serve our members with information sharing that could help member companies conduct their businesses in this uncertain environment.

How Long Can COVID-19 Last on Corrugated Surfaces?

At this time there is no evidence the coronavirus is spread by coming into contact with contaminated surfaces, but researchers have tested common home and hospital materials. According to the CDC, the virus's survival rate on cardboard delivery boxes was about one day. Corrugated is still the cleanest choice for your packaging needs.

FBA has pulled together the following resources to help you in communicating about this with your customers. You can read more using the following links:

- MIT Technology Review: <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/615348/heres-how-long-the-coronavirus-can-stay-in-the-air-and-on-packages/>
- ABC News story: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/covid19-days-surfaces-experiment-findings/story?id=69569397>

In both of these articles, it is noted that COVID-19 likes plastic and stainless steel surfaces best and can last on those surfaces for up to three days compared to up to 24 hours on corrugated.

The CDC and EPA are also helping educate the public on the differences between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing methods in the workplace:

- **Cleaning:** Removes germs and dirt from surfaces, typically through soap and water. This method lowers germ numbers but doesn't usually kill or destroy them. Cleaning surfaces is a first step, prior to disinfection.
- **Disinfecting:** Kills surface germs through disinfectant chemicals, which do not necessarily clean visibly dirty surfaces or remove germs. To properly disinfect, products often need to remain on a surface for 3 to 5 minutes.
- **Sanitizing:** Kills germs, but not as effectively as disinfecting. While some products can be used to do both, disinfecting generally requires more time and work. Sanitizing is often easier to accomplish, and still contributes to reducing the risk of infection.

For the most up-to-date information on work environments, companies should refer to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and OSHA. See the information for [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#) and [How to Clean and Disinfect](#). Attached and available for download from OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>.

If you have additional questions or need anything from FBA, we are here for you. Please feel free to reach out to the FBA staff.

Best regards,

Rachel