

Prepare for School Reopening with a Summertime Deep Clean



Executive Report

This report discusses how to take advantage of summertime to deep clean your school to prepare for students returning post-break.

Prepare for School Reopening

Schools are an important pillar of any community. They are a place for kids to learn and grow, and also provide aid for parents that are unable to stay home with their children during the day. The COVID-19 pandemic shocked every school in the nation, requiring teachers and staff to quickly adjust to remote learning.

The reopening of schools is perhaps the greatest signifier that a return to normal life is on the horizon. Many education professionals, parents, and children are looking forward to a safe return to in-person learning this fall.

Preparation for fall reopening begins this summer. Summertime has always been an important time for deep cleaning schools without too much disruption, since students are not in the building. However, deep cleaning is even more important this year. School administration will be responsible for creating a safe and healthy environment, and that begins with a deep clean.



Deep Cleaning Checklist

Completing a full deep clean at least once per year is crucial to not only keeping your school looking polished, but also preventing the spread of germs and even discouraging pests, mold, and mildew from calling your school home.

A complete deep clean should include the following services.

Carpet Cleaning and Extraction

Even with regular vacuuming, dirt and small debris get trapped deep within carpet fibers. Extraction carpet cleaning involves using hot water in a special spraying machine to simultaneously wash and vacuum the carpets. This is considered the most effective way to fully clean and disinfect carpets.

Strip and Wax Floors

A comprehensive deep clean should include a strip and wax of all floors that are not carpet. This is the process of removing the existing finish from the floors using a stripping agent, which takes all stains, dirt, and scuff marks with it. Then the floors are refinished with a fresh wax coating, leaving them shiny and looking brand new!

High Dusting

High dusting is the process of removing dust, bacteria, and dirt from hard to reach places, like cafeteria vents and gym rafters. These areas are often neglected throughout the year and can build up a lot of dust that can be harmful for students and faculty to breathe (as well as being unsightly). Reducing dust particles improves air quality to keep everyone healthy.

InfectaGuard™

InfectaGuard™, is our one-time in-depth deep cleaning and disinfection service that gives you the peace of mind that your facility is disinfected with EPA-approved List N antimicrobial disinfectants that prevent the spread of germs that cause infections such as influenza and COVID-19. Add in coverage via an electrostatic sprayer to ensure 100% coverage of disinfectant on surfaces, such as desks and chairs.

Deep Cleaning Checklist

Continuous Care

Uses cutting-edge technology to disinfect and create a long-lasting antimicrobial coating and surface protectant that is applied after cleaning is complete. The coating provides continuous protection and prevents the spread of germs and viruses on surfaces for up to 90-days. The disinfectant and antimicrobial coating used with Continuous Care is an EPA List N approved disinfectant, confirmed to be effective in killing SARS-CoV-2, the virus associated with COVID-19. Applying it with an electrostatic sprayer ensures full coverage, killing viruses and inhibiting the growth of bacteria and microorganisms.

Power Washing

Power washing removes deep-set dirt and grime from exterior surfaces, like the outside of the school, playground, and sidewalks. A power wash can make a huge difference in the external appearance of your school.

Window Cleaning

No deep clean is complete without internal and external window cleaning. A professional cleaning service like OpenWorks can reach high windows, ensuring every window sparkles on the first day of school!

Tile Scrub

Bathroom tiles are covered in bacteria and build up stains throughout the year. A tile scrub removes bacteria and polishes tiles and grout to make bathroom floors look brand new again.



CDC Guidelines and Ongoing Cleaning

The CDC also gives the following guidelines for ongoing maintenance of schools in its Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention. It suggests ongoing cleaning of high-touch surfaces, like door knobs and lunch trays.

- **Ventilation:** Improve ventilation to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants.
- **Modified layouts:** Adjust physical layouts in classrooms and other settings to maximize physical space, such as by turning desks to face in the same direction.
- **Cleaning:** Regularly clean high touch surfaces and objects (for example, playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, toilets, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible.
- **Communal spaces:** Close communal use of shared spaces, such as cafeterias, if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean regularly (for example, daily or as often as needed). Consider use of larger spaces such as cafeterias, libraries, gyms for academic instruction, to maximize physical distancing.
- **Food service:** Avoid offering any self-serve food or drink options such as hot and cold food bars, salad or condiment bars, and drink stations.
- **Water systems:** Take steps to ensure that all water systems and features (for example, sink faucets, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown. This can help protect occupants from possible exposure to lead, copper, and Legionella bacteria.

OpenWorks has conducted several surveys throughout the Covid pandemic to assess the rapidly changing needs of customers. In August 2020, 92% of US educators surveyed said they plan to increase the frequency of their cleaning and disinfecting efforts, and more than half of them will increase these efforts to multiple times a day. Respondents said the school areas most prone to germs include: bathrooms, cafeterias, buses, locker rooms, and computer labs. The surfaces they believe are the most prone to germs include: door handles, drinking fountains/water station areas, desks, railings, computers, and gym equipment and classroom supplies.

Faculty and parents are showing interest and concern in improving school cleaning strategies before fully reopening in the fall. This should be a priority for administrators to ensure a comfortable environment.

The American Rescue Plan



Schools can use funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to pay for a summertime deep cleaning and ongoing maintenance throughout the year. The \$1.9 trillion aid package sets aside \$122 billion for the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund. State educational agencies and school districts will receive funds to help reopen and maintain the healthy operation of schools, as well as resolve the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

The ARP ESSER funds may be used to address the many impacts of COVID-19 on pre-K through 12 education, including: Investing in resources to implement CDC's K-12 operational strategy for in-person learning to keep educators, staff, and students safe; improving ventilation; purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE); and obtaining additional space to ensure social distancing in classrooms.

State Educational Agencies (SAEs) may use the US Department of Education's provided [template](#) to apply for funds, or they may use their own format as long as all the necessary information is included. School districts can then work directly with their SAEs to obtain funding for various needs.

Funding will differ by state. More information on the plan can be found [here](#).

Choosing the Right Partner

It's important to find a commercial cleaning provider that understands the unique needs of schools. OpenWorks offers a number of specialized solutions for schools to safely complete your summertime deep clean and ongoing cleaning throughout the school year.

- **Background Checks Upon Request**
- **Local And Corporate Oversight And Quality Assurance Program**
- **Comprehensive Educational Facility Training To Meet State Requirements**
- **Reliable And Responsive Solutions To Accommodate Your Break Schedules**
- **Environmentally-Friendly Green Clean Program**
- **OSHA Certified Service Providers**
- **Classroom Disinfection And Maintenance**
- **Restroom Disinfection And Maintenance**
- **Hard Floor Disinfection And Maintenance**
- **Carpet Care**
- **Day Custodian Services**
- **Athletic Facility Disinfection And Maintenance**

We understand that scheduling a deep clean can be difficult for schools, which are rarely completely empty. We are available to work around your schedule to ensure every item on the deep cleaning checklist is completed before you welcome students back to the classroom in the fall.





[Request An Estimate](#)

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