

FRC SAFETY DURING COVID-19

Disinfecting FRC



Whether you are exposed to someone with the flu or more seriously, someone with COVID-19, how to wash your flame resistant clothing (FRC) remains the same. There are important do's-and-don'ts for disinfecting your FRC after a day in the field or coming in contact with the COVID-19 virus. Information from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) combined with our FRC industry expertise ensures you are receiving the most up-to-date and factual information.

Do:

The same practices for disinfecting your clothing after a hard day of work reign true – launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Detergent and water will disinfect clothing in the same way handwashing does for you.

Stick to the basics when washing your clothing:




Launder With Water

Use Soap (Detergent)

Dry Thoroughly

Thoroughly drying your clothing can also help to disinfect – once the virus is dried out, it dies. Please note, dirty laundry from a person with COVID-19 can be washed with other people's items, as long as these washing and drying rules are followed.

-  Be sure to clean and disinfect clothing hampers, when possible, consider placing a bag liner in the hamper that is either disposable (can be thrown away) or can be laundered.

Do Not:

DO NOT USE additives when washing FRC:

Although many people might believe that keeping fabrics as clean as possible means adding ultra-germicidal products like **bleach, hydrogen peroxide, borax solution, vinegar, Kaboom and others**, these additives could compromise your FRC and will NOT disinfect any better than hot water, soap, and thoroughly drying the garments. To maximize your safety and keep your FRC fully protective, you should never use bleach when washing FRC.




DO NOT use Bleach

The Facts:

- COVID-19 can remain viable on porous surfaces (such as clothing) for hours, and up to several days on non-porous surfaces such as plastic and stainless steel.
- COVID-19 deposited on surfaces is eventually "killed" (viruses are not really "alive") by drying out.
- Washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is a highly effective way to disinfect.
- Standard home washing machine procedures involve both more aggressive soap (detergent) and much longer wash times than hand washing, and are therefore an extremely effective COVID-19 disinfection method for clothing.
- Standard clothes dryers are also likely to accelerate decomposition of COVID-19 virus relative to the natural drying-out process which "kills" it.



Watch Tyndale's VP of Technical, **Scott Margolin** explain how to properly disinfect your FRC if exposed to someone who has been exposed to COVID-19: <https://vimeo.com/399254475/29e91fde93>.

 Remember to regularly check the CDC website to stay up-to-date with the most recent news, health, and safety tips. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider.