


# Best practices for cleaning with a steam cleaner

Follow these best practices to achieve a thorough clean while keeping your cleaning team safe.

1. **Prep the area to be cleaned.** This includes removing any built-up dirt. By doing this, you enable the steam to have maximum direct contact with the surfaces to be cleaned.
2. **Use the right accessory for the right job.** Steam cleaners come with a wide variety of accessories (floor tools, crevice tools, etc.). For disinfection to take place, the steam must come into direct contact with the surface before it dissipates. Using the right accessory will ensure this happens.
3. **Take proper safety precautions**. Do not touch the machine during use and check the machine even after it is turned off to reduce the risk of injury. Only make contact with grips, tools and other parts that are clearly marked as safe to handle.
4. **Don't rush.** Even at a high temperature, the steam needs a minimum exposure time to achieve the desired results.
5. **Aim for at least 20-30 seconds of exposure.** You can accomplish this either by cleaning slowly or doing a double pass.
6. **After cleaning, vacuum up the water.** Steam cleaning leaves a thin layer of hot water that contains all of the dirt and germs that have been loosened from the surface. Vacuum this up to remove the dirt and germs completely, as well as to reduce the drying time.
7. **Add a chlorine or bleach tablet to the dirty water tank.** This extra safety measure will guarantee all pathogens are inactivated.
8. **Wear personal protective equipment (PPE).** While steam doesn't aerosolize, it is possible to have spray-back if you're close to the surface you're cleaning, so you should always wear protective gear. When cleaning in areas where pathogens may be present, follow national, regional, state, and/or local guidelines for wearing PPE.

**Disclaimer:** If in any doubt, please contact your local health & safety authorities for correct guidance

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