

# COVID-19 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

## Cleaning & Disinfecting Reusable Bags

### During the State of Emergency

- We recommend disinfecting reusable shopping bags after every use. Turn each bag inside out before washing, and make sure you disinfect areas around the seams.
- We encourage all stores to take an extra step to ensure their employees are protected as much as possible by requiring customers to bag their own groceries if they have reusable bags. Most grocery stores in Montgomery County have taken this step, which we support.

Research shows the novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours or days on a variety of surface, however fabrics have not been tested. To be cautious, we recommend cleaning and/or disinfecting your reusable bags according to CDC guidelines.

### 3 Easy Steps to Clean and Disinfect Plastic and Nylon Bags

1. **Clean:** Inspect bag for any spills or stains, then wash with hot water and soap as needed.
2. **Disinfect:** Use disinfectant spray/wipes on all surfaces of the bag, inside and out. Make sure to use a disinfectant approved by the Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2)), and follow the instructions on the wipes label. Alternatively, you can use a solution containing at least 70% alcohol, or you can make a disinfecting solution using 4 teaspoons of unscented bleach and 4 cups of water.
3. **Allow bag to air dry** completely before storing.

### 2 Easy Steps to Clean Cloth Bags

1. **Wash** follow manufacturer's instructions. Use normal laundry detergent and warm water.
2. **Dry** on the warmest setting possible.



It is a good practice in general to clean and disinfect shopping bags often, especially bags that carried raw animal products. Visit [MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/bag/residents.html](https://MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/bag/residents.html) for more information on keeping reusable bags clean under normal circumstances.

