

Department of Safety and Inspections

Landlords can help prevent the spread COVID-19: Recommended guidelines for cleaning common areas in apartment buildings

The City of Saint Paul is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in our community and we are coordinating with our partners at Ramsey County Public Health and the Minnesota Department of Health to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our residents and businesses.

The Department of Safety and Inspections' Fire Safety Inspections unit is providing recommendations to landlords based on the best advice from the state Department of Health and infectious disease experts.

The Department of Safety and Inspections encourages landlords to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by following the voluntary guidelines:



Post signs throughout common areas in your building to encourage hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette (cover your cough and sneeze), and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.

Post materials in the languages used by the populations you serve. Print materials are available on MDH: Hand Hygiene Print Materials (www.health.state.mn.us/people/handhygiene/materials.html). Handwashing posters are also available on CDC: Posters | Handwashing (www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html).

Place alcohol-based hand sanitizer at all entry points and key points in facility as possible. If not possible, use signs directing to the nearest sink to wash hands with soap and water.

Place waste baskets throughout the building and regularly dispose of waste products and empty waste baskets. Use disposable liners in wastebaskets if possible. No-touch disposal receptacles are advised.

Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, handrails, bathroom fixtures (sink handles, toilets), countertops, workstations, tables, chairs, and elevator buttons. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the labels.

Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (doorknobs, computer keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down by employees frequently. Staff should wash hands, preferably with soap and water or, alternatively, with alcohol-based hand sanitizer after cleaning activities.

Clean all shared equipment after each use. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) using a regular household detergent and water.

DSI does not have the authority to enforce these recommendations; rather, the guidelines are provided to encourage landlords and residents to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For questions please call the City at 651-266-8989.

