Your staff works hard to clean and disinfect your facility to prevent infection and keep patients and residents healthy. But one important component is often missing from their cleaning routine: **soft surfaces**. Pathogens can survive on fabrics for up to 2.5 months and can then be transferred to the hands of staff, patients and residents. To ensure your staff is preventing the spread of pathogens via soft surfaces, ensure your environmental cleaning practices address soft surfaces in:

### Patient/Resident Rooms

Soft surfaces in patient/resident rooms can harbor dangerous pathogens. One study found staphylococcal species on patient room chairs. Help prevent the spread of pathogens by regularly sanitizing fabrics and upholstered furniture, including:

- Bedside chairs
- Blankets*  
- Cushions
- Drapes
- In-room couches
- Linens*
- Mattresses*
- Privacy curtains

### Lobbies and Common Areas

These areas are heavily trafficked by families, patients and residents, and can contribute to cross-contamination if they are not properly cleaned. Pathogens, such as VRE, can be transferred between people and upholstered furniture such as the chairs and couches often found in common areas. Sanitize these items at least once every day:

- Chairs
- Couches
- Cushions
- Rugs
- Throw pillows

### Work Stations

Reception desks, nursing stations and office spaces are all places where your staff may convene between patient and resident care. Soft surfaces in these areas can become contaminated with dangerous pathogens that staff may inadvertently carry from one room to another. Studies show that bacteria have been found on staff uniforms and can live long enough on these soft surfaces to be transferred to other workers, patients, residents or even the worker’s home. To prevent the spread of pathogens via soft surfaces, sanitize these items regularly:

- Desk chairs
- Rugs
- Soft computer equipment (e.g., mouse pads)

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*Allow to air dry before use.

Tips for Eliminating Microorganisms from Soft Surfaces

Soft surfaces can include materials like:
- Polyester
- Canvas
- Cotton
- Cotton blends
- Nylon
- Upholstery
- Blended fabrics

Use these application tips for best results:
- When using a product for the first time on soft surfaces, spot test product in a small, inconspicuous area.
- To ensure consistent coverage, apply products in a smooth zigzag motion, spraying mist across fabric until wet. Do not saturate.

Ask your Clorox Commercial Solutions sales representative about products EPA-registered for soft surfaces.