



FAQ

DISINFECTING FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT – COVID-19 Concerns

March 16, 2020

With the COVID-19 situation rapidly evolving, 3M has received numerous inquiries regarding disinfecting processes for fall protection equipment. As these processes have not had the opportunity to be fully tested and validated on our products, we have prepared this FAQ to help provide you guidance.

1. Is it a good practice to share personal protective equipment such as a full body safety harness with other employees?
 - a. As a best practice, it is recommended that each employee be provided their own set of personal protective equipment.

2. Can the COVID-19 virus spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects.
 - a. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. We are not aware of any studies available to specifically indicate how long the virus may be detected on personal protective equipment including fall protection. General information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/transmission.html>

3. Can I clean my fall protection safety harness with over the counter disinfectants such as Lysol and Simple Green?
 - a. At this time, it is not recommended to utilize any disinfectants as the effects of these chemicals has not been evaluated by 3M on the actual products. Many webbing and stitching elements when exposed to chemicals found in many disinfectants may degrade and ultimately affect the product's original design and strength requirements.

4. Can I clean my fall protection equipment?
 - a. Yes, 3M personal fall protection equipment may be cleaned. You may reference our cleaning technical bulletin by visiting <https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/13015700/cleaning-of-web-in-personal-fall-protection-products-technical-bulletin.pdf> and the specific product user instruction manual for references. 3M has confirmed that the cleaners noted will not damage the equipment but cannot comment on the efficacy of the products ability for disinfecting. You may consult with the cleaner manufacturer. Please note that the embedded cleaner product links may no longer be active but will direct you to the manufacturer's website where you should be able to locate further information.

5. Is there any guidance available from the United States Center for Disease Control for cleaning and disinfection practices in the workplace?
 - a. Yes, you may visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact 3M Fall Protection Technical Services at 800 328 6146 or email at 3Mfallprotectiontech@mmm.com