

The UNPLV (National Union for the Promotion of Holiday Rentals), which unites major parties in Gîte rentals in France (Abritel, Airbnb, TripAdvisor, LeBonCoin, Se Loger Vacances, CléVacances, Interhome, Poplidayes...), and O2 Care Services, French market leader in home help services, including home cleaning, have formed a partnership aiming to establish Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols for gîte owners, in the context of the fight against the spreading of the Covid-19 virus.

The latest studies available indicate that the Covid-19 virus remains viable for several hours to several days according to the surface (72 hours on plastic, 48 hours on stainless steel, 24 hours on cardboard). If the rental has been occupied during the 5 days preceding the arrival of new guests, strict respect of cleaning and disinfection guidelines recommended by O2Care Services is indispensable in following the health and sanitary requirements.

Holiday rental gateways should forward these guidelines to their clients (gîte owners) and ask them to respect the recommendations :

- Cleaning methods :
 - Organise the cleaning of the property in such a way so as to not enter a room that has already been cleaned.
 - Always start by cleaning cleanest areas first and finish with dirtiest areas.
 - Wash from top to bottom (e.g. upstairs first, ceiling to floor).
 - Wash the floor : begin furthest from the door and work towards exit.
- Inside the property
 - Leave shoes outside the property or use single-use overshoes.
 - Ventilate rooms for a minimum of 15-30 mins (if possible leave windows open for the duration of the cleaning).
 - Let water run in order to evacuate water that has lain stagnant in the pipes whilst the property has been vacant.
 - Before disinfecting the property clean all surfaces with a cleaning product (such as water & soap).
 - Avoid using sprays in order to reduce the risk of inhalation of cleaning product (this can lead to respiratory irritation).
 - Avoid using vacuum cleaners, unless equipped with a HEPA particle filter, prefer using single-use strip cleaners soaked in detergent (e.g. soap & water).
 - Disinfect floors using anti-viral products in accordance with EN 14476, or a 0,5% diluted active sodium hypochlorite bleach (e.g. 1 litre of 2,6% bleach + 4 litres cold water).
 - Disinfect contact surfaces with diluted bleach giving particular attention to plastic and steel surfaces : worktops, tables, chairs, light-switches, handles, Wcs, remote controls, kitchen appliance buttons, doorbell, keycodes, bannisters...
 - Clean crockery and cutlery in the dishwasher (or wash with water and washing-up liquid).
 - Do not shake sheets and bed linen.
 - Machine wash sheets and bed linen at 60°.
 - In the event of the property not being equipped with a washing machine, isolate

- the linen in a bag for transportation.
- Outside the property
 - Dust and clean exterior surfaces with a cleaning product (e.g. water & soap) before disinfecting.
 - Disinfect the patio (e.g. tiles) using an anti-viral product such as bleach diluted in water (please note : bleach can whiten wood).
 - Disinfect contact surfaces with diluted bleach : garden furniture, loungers, armrests, bicycle handlebars, hand-rails and balcony rails...
 - PPE to be used :
 - Mask :
Single-use or machine washable (after each use) in order to avoid any contamination during cleaning.
 - Gloves :
Prefer single-use gloves. Dispose of gloves after cleaning a property. If using re-usable gloves, disinfect well with bleach before and after cleaning a property. Wash hands well before and after using gloves.
If single-use gloves are not used, wash hands before, during and after cleaning.
 - Cleaning products :
Use normal multi-surface household cleaning products.
An ecological and efficient alternative :
water + soap or water + washing-up liquid
 - Anti-viral products :
Dilute 5 teaspoons of 2,6% bleach (check specs on label) in 1 litre water.
(Please note : do not dilute in hot water as this reduces the efficiency of the bleach).
 - Adequate equipment :
Use single-use cloths, mops, sponges and wipes where possible.
 - Shopping and supplies
 - Place bags on floor, throw away any packaging.
 - Wash hands.
 - Put away shopping.
 - Wash hands again.
 - Household waste
 - Prepare double bin-bag for high-risk waste (masks, gloves, disposable wipes...).
Allow 24h before placing in wheelie-bin.