

Events fact sheet 3: How to clean a CCT church after an event

Once your event has successfully happened and your attendees have gone home there's the final job of cleaning up before you can leave the church. Please bag up and remove all rubbish generated by your event. Until all Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, rubbish should be held for 72 hours before placing in a normal dustbin. Once you've bagged your rubbish, you can turn your attention to cleaning. CCT churches are full of historic fabric, so we've developed guidance to help you clear up whilst taking account of the historic and special nature of our buildings.

Government guidelines are clear that additional hygiene measures are key to minimising the spread of Covid-19 and the scientific advice is that normal cleaning methods do kill the Covid-19 virus.

There will be areas in the church that require special attention because they will have been regular touch points during your event. These might be:

Door handles

Wall safe or collection box doors/covers

Areas that have been used for seating

Perspex stands

Laminated notices

Light switches



How each is cleaned depends whether it is a modern surface that can withstand the chemicals in modern cleaning products, or an historic surface which needs more gentle treatment.



How to clean historic surfaces

Historic surfaces can be fragile. Please ensure you follow the advice below:

- If possible, please use distilled water for cleaning. This is because it contains no salts and doesn't accelerate deterioration of historic surfaces. It's readily available at many hardware stores. If you can't get hold of distilled water, alternatives are filtered water, followed by tap water.
- Please do not use antibacterial wipes or any products that contain chlorine (bleach) due to their ability to cause irreversible harm.
- You should use sensitive detergent products that do not contain harsh chemicals (e.g. Surcare, Ecover, Boots sensitive washing up liquid).
- Industrial denatured alcohol (e.g. methylated spirits) can be used to clean metal surfaces that are not gilded/painted.
- Please clean one surface/area at a time. For example, focus the application to the entrance door handle and complete all cleaning steps before moving to the next area e.g. adjacent stone surface area to door handle.
- It's helpful to bring along bags and/or buckets to store your used cloths.
- To reduce risk of water stains on wood surfaces such as pews, please only fill buckets a third full and stand it on the floor.
- Please do not attempt to clean books, gilded or painted surfaces (such as stained glass or gilded frames), or textiles. These materials require a conservation expert's advice.

You can clean any modern surfaces using antibacterial disinfectant and cleaning cloths. Washing up gloves should be worn. After use cloths and gloves can be bagged and, once home, washed in a washing machine according to manufacturers instructions, dried and used again.

Quick reference guide

You may wish to take this quick reference guide below with you to your event:

Types of Historic Surface	Equipment Needed	Method
<p>Wood (not gilded, not historic painted surfaces) Doors, pews, pulpits, altar rails, handles</p>  <p>Stone Doorways/entrances</p> <p>Glass (not painted, not stained)</p> <p>Ceramics</p>	<p>Gloves</p> <p>Sensitive washing up liquid (Surcare/Ecover)</p> <p>Distilled water/filtered water/ tap water</p> <p>Two separate containers for water</p> <p>Paper towel or soft cloths</p>	<p>Using detergents</p> <p>For dilution of detergent product follow the instruction from the manufacturer. Public Health England recommend a minimum of 20 seconds contact with surface area.</p> <p>Wring out the cloth and reduce excessive water before applying to surfaces. Follow the detergent application with a rinse of water (distilled, if possible) from separate water container. Immediately follow with using a paper towel or soft cloth (clean cotton rags), to dry the specific cleaned area straight away.</p>
<p>Metals (not gilded)</p> <p>Fittings and fixtures such as door handles, latches and altar rails</p> 	<p>For metals only</p> <p>Industrial denatured alcohol e.g. methylated spirit</p>	<p>For metals only - using industrial denatured alcohol</p> <p>Public Health England recommend a minimum of 20 seconds contact with the surface area</p> <p>Apply product with clean soft cloth (clean cotton rags)</p>

Once you've finished cleaning, please check the church and ensure you take all your belongings and event equipment when you leave the church.