



Keeping Toys Safe in Shelters

DISCARD DONATED TOYS THAT ARE HARD TO CLEAN

- Stuffed or cloth toys.
- Bath toys or other toys that may hold water and harbor germs.
- Toys containing small parts, broken parts, sharp points, finger traps or loose ribbons.
- Books, crayons, and board games that are visibly soiled.



LIMIT TO ONE CHILD

- Books, crayons, and board games that are placed in children's mouths → Give to the child or discard.
- Toys of any child who is visibly ill or is suspected of having a contagious disease → Clean and sanitize/disinfect or discard the toy upon the child's recovery for the child's health.

EXAMINE TOYS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

- Discard toys that have become broken or unsafe with loose or sharp parts, etc.
- Place dirty toys and toys that were placed in a child's mouth or used by a group of infants or toddlers in a designated "dirty" toy box or storage area.

CLEANING TOYS

- All toys in the dirty toy box/storage area should be examined again and discarded for broken parts or inability to be cleaned and sanitized/disinfected.
- Sanitize toys that can be immersed in water.
 - o Use a dishwasher. (Dishwashers will clean and sanitize the toys.)**OR**
 - Manually wash, rinse, and then sanitize with an EPA-Registered disinfectant for Norovirus and COVID-19 following manufacturer's directions.
- Disinfect toys that cannot be immersed in water (ex., windup toys).
 - o Remove visible dirt.
 - o Disinfect with alcohol wipes (70% alcohol wipes/towelettes made for disinfecting).
 - o Keep the surface wet for at least 1 minute after using the wipe.
 - o Air dry.

Note: Alcohol wipes may damage the outside of electronic toys.

Toys must be cleaned first of visible dirt for the sanitizer or disinfectant to be effective.

5/3/2021