



COVID-19 PANDEMIC PANIC PREVENTION

How You Can Kill Coronavirus in Your Vehicle

(Information gathered from Consumer Reports, CDC, ABC)

During the current COVID-19 Pandemic, washing one's hands and cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces are two of the best ways to defend against spreading the coronavirus.

But what about the inside of your car?

If you or someone else who has been in your car shows symptoms of the illness, you should clean frequently touched surfaces, including the steering wheel, door handles, shift lever, any buttons or touch screens, wiper and turn signal stalks, passenger and driver door armrests, grab handles, and seat adjusters.

Before We Start Cleaning

Put on disposable or designated gloves while cleaning to prevent the spread of the coronavirus inside.

Use the Right Tools

Alcohol solutions that contain at least 70 percent alcohol are effective against coronavirus. For the most part, nearly every interior surface of a vehicle can be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol. Be advised that most car leathers and imitation leathers have urethane coatings for protection, which is safe to clean with alcohol. But over time, cleaning leather with alcohol can leave it susceptible to damage and discoloration.

Vigorous washing with soap and water can also destroy the coronavirus. Coronaviruses are surrounded by a protective envelope that helps them to infect other cells and destroying that envelope can effectively disarm them. Soap and water are also safe for most car interiors—especially fabrics and older leather that may have begun to crack. Just be sure not to scrub too hard.

If your car has fabric upholstery, do not clean it with too much water or too much soap. The goal is not to create too many suds. If you soak through the fabric down to the cushion beneath, it could end up creating a musty smell or encouraging mold growth in the cushions. It is recommended to lightly agitate the fabric with a small amount of water and laundry detergent to effectively clean fabric upholstery.

Don't use bleach or hydrogen peroxide on the inside of your car. While they can both kill coronaviruses on surfaces, they will likely damage your car's upholstery. Also, do not use ammonia-based cleaners on car touch screens, as they can damage their anti-glare and anti-fingerprint coatings.

Once you're finished cleaning, don't forget to wash your hands before and after driving.

Remember maintaining cleanliness in your car is a small act that can go a long way to reducing the risk of being infected by COVID-19. If you are going to take trips outside, do everything you can to slow or prevent the transmission of the coronavirus. Disinfecting your steering wheel repeatedly may seem tedious and unnecessary, but it is likely to save lives.



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