



ESCHERICHIA COLI

## How Long Can Pathogens Persist On Inanimate Surfaces?

The most common disease-causing pathogens can persist on high touch surfaces and objects from hours to months, under the right environmental conditions, creating a continuing source of transmission if no regular preventive surface disinfection is undertaken. Thirty-seven of these Top 50 organisms (denoted by an asterisk\*) are killed by quat-based formulations. **Read labels carefully to see which products will kill each of these persistent pathogens.**

### BACTERIA

Acinetobacter spp.*	3 days to 5 months
Campylobacter jejuni*	Up to 6 days
Clostridium difficile (spores)	5 months
Chlamydia pneumonia, C. trachomatis	≤ 30 hours
Chlamydia psittaci*	15 days
Corynebacterium diphtheriae	7 days – 6 months
Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis	1–8 days
Escherichia coli*	1.5 hours – 16 months
Enterococcus spp. including VRE and VSE*	5 days – 4 months
Haemophilus influenzae	12 days
Helicobacter pylori	≤90 minutes
Klebsiella spp.*	2 hours to >30 months
Listeria spp. *	1 day – months
Mycobacterium bovis*	> 2 months
Mycobacterium tuberculosis	1 day – 4 months
Neisseria gonorrhoeae	1 – 3 days
Proteus vulgaris*	1 – 2 days
Pseudomonas aeruginosa *	6 hours – 16 months; on dry floor-- 5 weeks
Salmonella typhi *	6 hours – 4 weeks
Salmonella typhimurium *	10 days – 4.2 years
Salmonella spp.*	1 day
Serratia marcescens *	3 days – 2 months; on dry floor-- 5 weeks
Shigella spp. *	2 days – 5 months
Staphylococcus aureus, including MRSA *	7 days – 7 months
Streptococcus pneumoniae *	1 – 20 days
Streptococcus pyogenes *	3 days – 6.5 months
Vibrio cholerae *	1 – 7 days

OVER

## FUNGI

Candida albicans *	1 – 120 days
Candida parapsilosis	14 days
Torulopsis glabrata	102 – 150 days

## VIRUSES

Adenovirus*	7 days – 3 months
Astrovirus	7 – 90 days
Coronavirus - SARS associated*	3 hours
Coxsackie virus	> 2 weeks
Cytomegalovirus *	8 hours
Echovirus	7 days
HAV *	2 hours – 60 days
HBV *	> 1 week
HIV *	> 7 days
Herpes simplex virus, type 1 and 2 *	4.5 hours – 8 weeks
Influenza virus *	1 – 2 days
Norovirus †	8 hours – 7 days
Papillomavirus 16	> 7 days
Papovavirus	8 days
Poliovirus type 1 *	4 hours – < 8 days
Poliovirus type 2 *	1 day – 8 weeks
Pseudorabies virus	≥7 days
Respiratory syncytial virus *	up to 6 hours
Rhinovirus *	2 hours – 7 days
Rotavirus *	6 – 60 days
Vacciniavirus *	3 weeks – > 20 weeks

Source: Kramer, Axel; Schwebke, Ingeborg; Kamf, Gunter. (2006) How long do nosocomial pathogens persist on inanimate surfaces? A systematic review. BioMed Central. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/6/130>

†For a list of products registered as effective against norovirus, please see <http://tiny.cc/norovirusproducts>



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