Tips *for* Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting in Early Care and Education

Microfiber mops with mop heads that are easily removed for laundering are best at removing dirt and germs. If you use cotton mop heads, don't leave them soaking in buckets; turn upside down to dry.

Disinfect high touch surfaces like faucet handles and toilet levers.

Post information on your OSHA-required Hazard Communication Program in an area where it can be seen by all staff, such as a break room.

Air fresheners contain many toxic chemicals. To control odors:

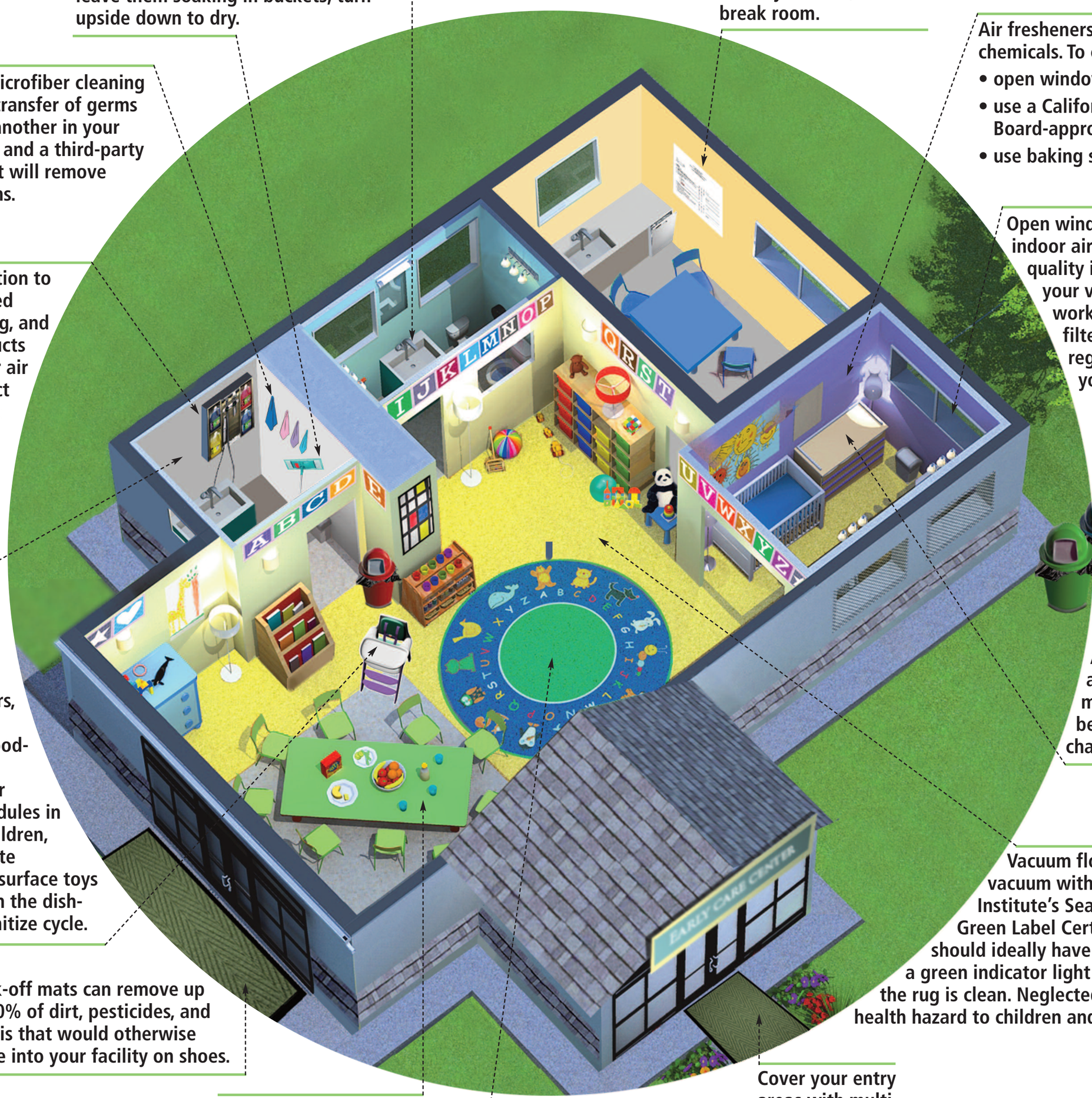
- open windows.
- use a California Air Resource Board-approved air cleaner.
- use baking soda in diaper pails.

Use color-coded microfiber cleaning cloths to prevent transfer of germs from one area to another in your facility. Microfiber and a third-party certified detergent will remove up to 99% of germs.

Open windows to freshen indoor air when outside air quality is good. Make sure your ventilation system is working properly and filters are changed regularly to maintain your indoor air quality.

Use a dilution station to dilute concentrated cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting products to improve indoor air quality and protect staff from contact with harmful chemicals.

Hand sanitizer is flammable. Store it safely.



Always allow a disinfectant to remain visibly wet on a hard surface for the full dwell time listed on the product label. A disinfectant with a 30 second or 1 minute dwell time is best for use on changing tables.

Sanitize high chairs, tables, toys, and pacifiers with a food-contact surface approved sanitizer according to schedules in Caring for Our Children, Appendix K or state regulations. Hard surface toys can be sanitized in the dish-washer on the sanitize cycle.

Vacuum floors daily using a vacuum with the Carpet and Rug Institute's Seal of Approval/ Green Label Certification. Vacuums should ideally have HEPA filtration and a green indicator light that tells you that the rug is clean. Neglected carpets pose a health hazard to children and staff.

Walk-off mats can remove up to 80% of dirt, pesticides, and debris that would otherwise come into your facility on shoes.

Always pre-clean surfaces with a third-party certified all-purpose cleaner and microfiber cloths before sanitizing or disinfecting.

Steam clean or launder area rugs and carpeting regularly to remove allergens, dirt, particulate matter and toxic chemicals that collect in rug fibers.

Cover your entry areas with multi-level scraper walk-off mats, 20 feet if possible.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) provided partial or full funding for this project but does not necessarily recommend or endorse any opinion, commercial product, or trade name used.

For more information on how to start a Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Program in your facility, see Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting: A Toolkit for Early Care and Education at: http://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/childcare/toolkit/green_cleaning/main.cfm