

HOW TO DECONTAMINATE THE AMBULANCE

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

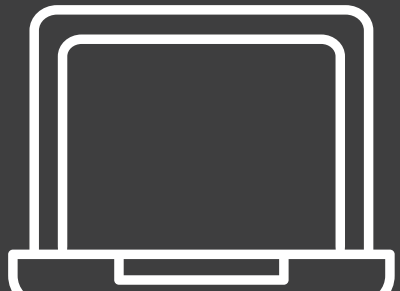
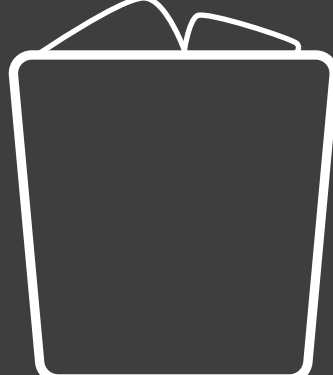
With the fast pace of EMS, it's easy to forget about threats you can't see. But bacteria, viruses and dangerous narcotics like fentanyl can survive for weeks on contaminated surfaces, including the nooks and crannies of your patient care compartment and even the steering wheel and seat belts up front. Follow this step-by-step guide to protect your providers and patients from these threats by decontaminating the ambulance from front to back.

1 Put on **gloves, goggles, mask.**



2

Remove personal items and trash from the cabin and patient care compartment.



Remove or cover **sensitive electronics.**

3

4

Detail both compartments, paying special attention to spaces between seats and cabinets, light fixtures, handles, knobs and crevices.



5

Treat or replace the vehicle's **air filters.**



6

Close all windows and **set the parking brake.**

7

Start the engine and start the **HVAC fan** on a low setting.



8

Prepare your **decontamination solution.**



9

Apply the solution liberally into the front cabin, including all surfaces (vents, headliners, door panels, seats, seat belts, floor mats, etc.).

Be sure to **apply the solution** at least **18 inches from the surfaces** for a fine mist instead of droplets. Also apply the solution to the vehicle's air intake vents.



10

Apply the solution liberally into the **patient care compartment**, including all surfaces and exposed equipment, like the jump seat and cot.



11

Close all doors and windows and **wait 20 minutes**, leaving the engine and fan on. (If you are in a garage, make sure the door is open to **ventilate the vehicle exhaust.**)



12

Turn off the ambulance's engine and **let it sit**, windows and doors closed, for **4 to 8 hours.**



13

Wipe away any residue with water or glass cleaner.



14

Replace electronics and **patient care supplies.** You are ready for the next call!

