



Sailplane Health Cleaning Finding and Recommendations

1. **Disinfecting plexiglass** -You asked for some research. Please see attached screenshot from a brief internet search.

Disinfecting Acrylic, Polycarbonate and PETG Sheet - Curbell ...

Generally speaking, soap and water or hydrogen peroxide **disinfectants** work best on these products. When **disinfecting** OPTIX® Acrylic, TUFFAK® Polycarbonate ...

People also ask

How do you disinfect plexiglass? ^

To **clean plexiglass**, start by blowing off the large dust particles using your own breath or a blow dryer on the cool setting. Then, gently pour soapy water over the **plexiglass** and let it run across the surface. While the **plexiglass** is still wet, wipe it with a microfiber cloth to remove the dirt and grime. Nov 5, 2019

[www.wikihow.com > Clean-Plexiglass](http://www.wikihow.com/Clean-Plexiglass)
[3 Ways to Clean Plexiglass - wikiHow](#)

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Can you use vinegar on plexiglass? v

Is there a difference between acrylic and plexiglass? v

How do you disinfect polycarbonate? ^

Wash **polycarbonate** sheet with a mild soap and lukewarm water. Use a soft cloth or sponge and gently wash with an up and down motion in the same direction as the flutes, as shown in Fig. 1. Rinse the cloth or sponge and change the water often.

The consensus seems to be that simple soap/water mixture is the top option (I'd be careful about hydrogen peroxide); not too surprising given how often we're being reminded to wash our hands. In soaring season I usually keep a spray bottle in my car filled with water and a little dish soap (Dawn) – I think it should be easy enough for all club members to do the same. We also need to use a microfiber cloth to dry off the soapy water.

Remember to first flush the surface thoroughly to remove any grit before doing any wiping; any wiping should be straight up and down (parallel to the airflow), not in small circles. Pre-COVID, I used to do the initial wipe down with a bare hand after flushing, so as to feel any grit before it could scratch the surface – probably not a good idea now, though it might still work if an exam glove (nitrile or latex) were worn.

2. **Keeping distances** - I think it will be difficult to maintain 6-foot distance when hooking a glider to the tow rope. Perhaps we can ask pilots to hold the canopy down when this is in progress, and both pilot and ground person should have their masks on (which is already covered in your other points).
3. **Wiping down surfaces** - I don't think it is very practical to try to wipe down/rinse canopy covers and tie-down ropes/fittings. Better to rely on gloves and masks when handling them – which is only going to be at the beginning and end of a typical day. I don't believe the virus can survive long on such surfaces in an outdoor/UV-rich environment anyway. Similarly, I wouldn't try to swab down the outside of the glider.
4. **AOPA advice** - There was some advice (I think in the AOPA Pilot magazine, which I throw away after reading) about wiping down cockpit surfaces. Need to think through all the things you touch in the cockpit while flying the airplane – for a powered aircraft it's a pretty long list given modern avionics, flaps, engine controls, electrical systems, etc. We have it a bit easier in the Schweizers – canopy + lock, cushions, straps, stick, trim, spoilers, air vent, maybe electrical vario + battery. Presumably gloves are worn when pre-fighting the exterior. What did I forget?
5. **Disinfecting wipes** - Do we have a source of supply for disinfecting wipes? I am having trouble finding them in stores even for home use.