

# Expert Tips: Protect Yourself By Keeping Devices Clean

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**Even at the best of times, PCs, laptops, and mobile devices are breeding grounds for bacteria.**

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The coronavirus is capable of living on different surfaces, although for how long depends on the type of surface. If you've never cleaned your devices before, now is the time to start. Some tips:

- Let's start with a big don't: The easiest way to clean your smartphone is to obviously wash it, but that's the most dangerous way as well. Even if your phone comes with extreme water resistance, don't submerge it.
- Another major (and more common) mistake is using alcohol- or chemical-based cleaning solutions, which are too harsh for some surfaces.
- For the same reason, avoid using cleaning brushes or pads made of harsh or abrasive materials. That's right, no Brillo pads on the iPhone!
- Completely power down your device before cleaning it.
- Remove any cases and accessories attached to the device.
- Once your laptop, phone, or tablet is power- and case-free, a lint-free or microfiber cloth is the best option if you have one. If you don't, any soft cloth should work.
- Depending on the device's level of water resistance, the cloth can be dampened—but if you go this route, be sure to avoid any openings or ports.
- Use up-and-down motions with the cloth to clean the screen, and focus on the places you're most likely to tap and touch.
- Above all, be gentle! That includes not just the pressure you exert, but also the materials and liquids you use. There's no sense having a squeaky-clean laptop or phone whose screen you can't read because you scratched it.