

What's the proper protocol for handling paper, cardboard packaging or plastic items?

OHS has done a significant amount of research on this topic and found very little consistent information on proper management of items.

However, there is consistent information stating that COVID-19 can “last” on cardboard for a period of up to 24 hours and as long as 2 to 3 days on plastic. As a result, BRSD recommends the following guidelines for handling paper products, cardboard packaging or plastic items:

For paper products and cardboard boxes or packaging, we recommend:

- Let items sit, untouched, for 24 hours prior to handling. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water when you are done handling.
- If there is urgent need to handle the paper in less than 24 hours, wear latex / nitrile gloves while handling. When you are done handling the paper, dispose of the gloves properly and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

For hard cover textbooks, we recommend:

- Wiping the hard cover with disinfectant that has been sprayed on a paper towel.
- Letting the book sit, untouched, for 24 hours prior to handling pages.

note that when using disinfectant you are always advised to wear gloves and long sleeves

For packaging that contains plastic or for plastic items, we recommend:

- Let items sit, untouched, for 72 hours prior to handling. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water when you are done handling.
- If there is urgent need to handle the item in less than 72 hours, wear latex / nitrile gloves while handling. When you are done handling the item, dispose of the gloves properly and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.