



## Environment Rating Scale Table Washing Procedures

Note: The following procedures include Environment Rating Scale recommendations. Always follow recommendations provided by the health department in your state/region.

### Table Washing Procedure

1. Spray the table (or highchair) with a soap-water solution and wipe dry with a single-use towel.
2. Spray the table with water to rinse the soap-water solution and dry with a single-use towel.
3. To sanitize the eating surface, spray the table/tray with an EPA approved sanitizer and follow the label directions for contact time to allow the solution to kill germs.

### Additional Precautions

- Sponges should not be used for sanitizing tables because they soak bacteria away from the surface of the sponge, which then cannot be easily reached in the interior of the sponge by the sanitizing agent.
- If cloths are used, a separate cloth is required for each table/tray, and a new cloth must be used for each step.
- Food should not be put directly on the table or highchair tray because eating surfaces are more likely to be contaminated than disposable plates or washed and sanitized dishes.
- If highchair trays are used as eating surfaces, the trays should be washed and sanitized the same way as plates and other food service utensils.
- If different children rotate through snack, each place must be cleaned, rinsed, and sanitized between use by different children. Sanitizing solutions should not be sprayed while children are seated at the table.
- If placemats are used, they should be cleaned, rinsed, and sanitized using the correct procedure after each use.

References: Cryer, D., Harms, T., Riley, C. (2004) *All About the ITERS-R*. Pact House Publishing.

Harms, T., Clifford, R.M., Cryer, D. (2014). *Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale: Third Edition*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

Harms, T., Clifford, R.M., Cryer, D. (2018). *Infant and Toddler Environmental Rating Scale: Third Edition*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.