



# Fogging vs Spraying



With companies rapidly trying to prepare to re-open as lockdown measures are relaxed, everyone is being bombarded with new terminology and devices to protect their staff and customers.

Trying to decide what is best can seem like a minefield!

Capital Power Clean want to help you to understand when and why you need certain products.

Fogging and spraying have become important activities in preparing for a safe return to work .

This article helps to make sense of the different options on offer.

## What is Fogging?

Fogging can be used to apply disinfectants and other chemicals to surfaces. The equipment produces a micro-mist of solution, formed of Ultra Low Volume droplets (ULV). Fogging machines use large volumes of air at low pressures to transform liquid into droplets that are dispersed into the atmosphere. These particles stay suspended in the air until they evaporate.

Please be aware that some sanitisers and disinfectants cannot be used in foggers as the microns produced can create respiratory problems for individuals if they are inhaled. You must check the safety data sheet to ensure your product is safe to use for fogging. Once this has been verified, remove all water sensitive fabrics such as pictures, metal objects, curtains etc before use as they may be damaged by the solution.

When using fogging equipment, the correct PPE is necessary and the room should be sealed for at least 24 hours after to ensure it has been completely contained and all airborne and surface-based pathogens are destroyed. It will not be effective if you enter the room too soon after activating the fogger.

## What is Electrostatic Spraying?

Electrostatic spraying applies a coating of disinfectant or another liquid by creating a positive electric charge through the solution to create a 3D wrapping effect around a surface. As the particles contain an electric charge, the disinfectant (or liquid) wraps around the surface to build an evenly distributed layer. This is only effective on conductive surfaces meaning metals, plants and concrete. Electrostatic sprayers should not be used near computers or in server rooms as the positive charge may destroy the internal mechanisms.

## What is Spraying?

Normal spraying differs to electrostatic spraying as it does not impart an electrostatic charge to the solution.

This means spraying only leaves a coat on the surface where it has been directly sprayed. A non-absorbent wipe needs to be used to move the applied solution in hard to reach areas such as under a door handle, or the solution should be sprayed onto a cloth to wipe down the surface.

## Is fogging or spraying really required?

Fogging or spraying are excellent methods to help combat COVID-19 as they destroy airborne pathogens and disinfect large areas quickly and effectively ensuring better area coverage.

## Top Tips

When using any of these devices it is important to remember:

- **Some solutions need a contact time of up to 5 minutes.**
- **Flush the spray jet or pump through with clean water after use to remove any residue that will be left in the device from the chemical.**
- **Do not use on exposed electrics – all electrical technology that came be cleaned must be sealed i.e. keyboards, screens, mouse etc.**
- **Unplug any electrical device that is being cleaned.**