

Climbing Wall Cleaning Procedure

Original Question: I'm wondering if anyone has found a lateral climbing wall that meets hospital infection control standards and can be cleaned between each patient use. If so, I'd really appreciate it if you could share which product you're using and your cleaning protocol. I am happy to share with the group.

ORG A Response:

Product: [SouthPaw Adaptive Climbing Wall](#)

Org A Cleaning Procedure: Each day, the wall and components are wiped down as any other piece of equipment in our therapy gyms would be. After each patient use, the wall and components are wiped down. The last time Joint Commission came we described this cleaning protocol to them and they were satisfied.

Original Question Asker's Correspondence With SouthPaw:

The Manufacturer details a soap and water process, but then approved the alternative disinfectant wipes between patients.

SouthPaw Cleaning Recommendations:

Here are step-by-step instructions for cleaning hand holds, climbing panels and mats:

Cleaning Hand Holds

- Remove hand holds from climbing wall.

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- Choose one of the below methods to remove dirt and chalk from holds:

- - Dishwasher - Place holds in a dishwasher with or without detergent. Choose "air dry" and not "heat dry."
 - Hand Wash - Using a soft bristle scrub brush and mild dish soap, scrub the hand holds in warm water. Rinse well. *Note: Do not use a metal bristle brush.*
 - Car Wash - Take holds to a self-service car wash and lay them out on the floor. Spray down holds with the soap mixture and then rinse well with plain water. *Note: If you have access to large bakery bread trays, they are a great way to transport and clean holds. Since the trays have openings, holds can be left in them for the cleaning and drying steps.*

- Allow hand holds to completely dry for at least 24 hours prior to re-installing on the climbing wall.

Climbing Wall Panels

- Place towels on mats at the base of panels to absorb any soap/water that may drip down on them.
- Starting at the top and working your way down, wipe each panel with a mild soap and water solution.
- Rinse by wiping down with plain water, again working from the top down.
- Allow panels to thoroughly dry before re-installing hand holds, accessories or Mat Locking® System.

- Notes:

- - It's easier to clean the panels with the hand holds removed, so we suggest you complete this step while your holds are drying.

Hospital Question to Southpaw:

Thank you for the cleaning guidance. In our hospital-based outpatient therapy clinic, the detailed process you provided isn't feasible to complete between each patient due to infection control protocols. However, we could certainly follow it periodically, especially when the equipment becomes visibly soiled.

For our other therapy tools, we typically use alcohol-free disinfectant wipes between patients. These are gentle on equipment and help us meet infection control standards without causing damage over time. Would this be an acceptable method for disinfecting your equipment between uses?

We're really excited about the benefits this equipment can offer our patients and are eager to find a cleaning approach that satisfies both our hospital's infection control requirements and the manufacturer's recommendations.

If Southpaw isn't the actual manufacturer, could you kindly point us to the correct contact?

Thanks so much for your help!

Southpaw Response:

Date Friday October 17, 2025 10:30:13 AM

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Yes the wipes will work.



SOUTHPAW.

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