

## Ice machine user's guide

Generally, ice machines are not an environment where viruses can thrive. If users do not practice proper ice handling and safety techniques, ice can carry bacteria or viruses like the novel coronavirus. By following best practices, ASU personnel can significantly reduce the risk of contamination and keep ice machines as safe as possible for everyone to use.

### Instructions for scoop-ice machines

1. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer prior to using ice machine. Signage should be posted near the ice machine to remind personnel of hand hygiene before using the ice machine.
2. Always use an ice scoop to dispense ice. Never dispense ice with bare hands, glassware or other containers such as water bottles or mugs that may contaminate the ice inside the machine. Use only the ice scoop.
3. Carefully grip the ice scoop by the handle to dispense ice. **Do not** let the scoop touch personal containers. Avoid reaching into the ice storage bin past your elbow. If needed, wait for the bin to fill.
4. Store the ice scoop in a smooth, easily cleanable container such as a plastic container outside of the ice machine when not in use.
5. Keep the ice bin door closed at all times when not in use.
6. Clean the ice scoop and storage container daily by washing with soap and warm water and allow to air dry.
7. Clean and disinfect high-contact surfaces of ice machines several times (at least twice) per day using a [disinfectant effective against coronaviruses](#) and appropriate for food services areas.

### Instructions for push-button or lever ice machines

1. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer prior to using ice machine. Signage should be posted near the ice machine to remind personnel of hand hygiene before using the ice machine.
2. Push the button using clean hands or use a clean cup or container to push the lever to dispense ice into container.
3. Keep the ice bin door closed.
4. Clean high-contact surfaces of ice machines with a [disinfectant effective against coronaviruses](#) and appropriate for food services areas.

### Additional CDC recommendations for ice machines and ice

1. **Do not** store pharmaceuticals or medical solutions in ice machines used for human consumption.
2. Limit access to ice-storage chests, keep the container doors closed except when removing ice. Clean, disinfect and maintain ice-storage chests regularly according to manufacturer guidelines.
3. Use a [disinfectant effective against coronaviruses](#) to clean ice machines, dispensers or storage chests in accordance with label instructions.

## References

[cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/recommendations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/recommendations.html)  
[easyice.com/coronavirus-keeping-employees-customers-safe/](https://www.easyice.com/coronavirus-keeping-employees-customers-safe/)  
[epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-expands-covid-19-disinfectant-list](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-expands-covid-19-disinfectant-list)