

Can cleaning tech make people feel safe at hotels amid the coronavirus pandemic?

Linda Laban Special to USA TODAY

Understandably, people are nervous about leaving their homes for groceries or for a stroll, let alone traveling and staying in a hotel. But as confinement restrictions ease, many are itching to have a getaway. And, after the unprecedented global spring shutdown due to the coronavirus pandemic left millions of hotel rooms empty, the hotel industry is making all efforts to gain public trust and rebuild business. Certainly, hotel cleaning protocols top that list and will be highly visible. Hoteliers want guests to see their efforts and feel confident and are promising deep cleaning, enhanced cleaning, and retraining staff on proper cleaning techniques – even down to disinfecting key cards. But some are adding second-level super cleaning to their daily housekeeping. What is a 'deep clean'? Many businesses promise to them before reopening Troutbeck, a historic retreat set on 250 acres in New York's Hudson Valley, flew into action during its closure, upgrading all of the resort's HVAC systems with a new HEPA filtration system that includes UV light for extra germ-fighting. "It is a medical-grade system with something like a 97% kill rate of airborne viruses and bacteria," says Troutbeck's owner, Anthony Champalimaud. "It's also really good at eliminating odors, which is always nice," he adds.

AFar-UVC sanitation, contact tracing:Tech cruise ships could implement to combat spread of coronavirusMany hotels are adding electrostatic disinfectant sprayers that allow for 360-degree surface coverage. Also, because the particles in the spray are positively charged, the cleaning solution adheres to surfaces, smothering and eradicating germs.d

"In addition to following all industry protocols and standards, we've introduced a number of enhanced cleaning and sanitization measures to help ensure a safe environment for our staff and guests," said John Lombardo, general manager of the privately-owned [Saybrook Point Resort & Marina](#) in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. **"We're using electrostatic sprayer technology that's been adopted by some of the world's largest hotel chains and airlines to apply disinfectants. It helps the product to surround and cling to surfaces in ways traditional cleaning measures can't."**

[Saybrook Point Resort](#) uses equipment from Victory Sprayers, whose website promises, "an eco-friendly approach to disinfection by spraying up to 65% less chemicals per square foot," something that's important to the waterside resort's owners.