'Recommendations on disinfection procedures for cultural assets on the occasion of the crisis by Covid 19', prepared by the Institute of Cultural Heritage of Spain (IPCE)


The text warns about the use of corrosive products, such as bleach, ammonia and detergents in disinfection practices of monumental complexes, historical buildings, archaeological sites and objects. The recommendations have been addressed by the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Spain to the Autonomous Regions, National Police, Civil Guard, Military Emergency Unit (UME) and Civil Protection of this country.

If case of doubts about cleaning and disinfection processes, the Ministry warns the Spanish authorities not to apply any treatment, as this may cause irreversible damage to the cultural heritage, and urges them to agree on all measures with professionals in the field of conservation.

The document describes procedures to be applied on movable and immovable heritage, including measures to prevent contamination of heritage sites and objects or, when required, indications on neutral products for cleaning and disinfection, always applied with controlled pressure and under the advice of a conservation professional.

It concludes with a one-page Summary Table, which provides recommendations for 1) Cultural assets located in public spaces (historical and artistic buildings, fountains, sculptures, etc.); 2) Cultural assets in closed spaces (museums, archives or religious areas).


The recommendations have been distributed through a Press Release by the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Spain, which recalls that in this emergency situation, in addition to the protection of individuals and society, it is also necessary to consider the important role that cultural heritage represents for society. "In this sense, the main international organizations, such as ICCROM or ICOM, have issued statements to recall the social and economic importance and the identity value that cultural heritage represents".