

Properties of Common Surface Disinfectants

Disinfectant Chemistry	Hydrogen Peroxide & Peracetic Acid (optional acetic acid)	Chlorine (sodium hypochlorite)	Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide	Alcohol	Phenolic Compounds	Citric Acid	Quarternary Ammonium Compounds
Classification	Sporicidal/High level	Sporicidal/High-level ¹	Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate	Low level ³
Characteristics in Typical Use							
Concentration	varies by product	0.01 to 5%	0.5%	60 to 90%	0.2 to 3%	0.6%	0.1 to 2%
Contact time in minutes	1 to 720	10 to 30	1 to 10	10 to 30	10 to 30	1 to 10	10 to 30
Stable for more than one week	varies by product	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Inactivated by organics	varies by product	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Leaves a residual	varies by product	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Is corrosive	varies by product and surface types	yes	varies by product and surface types	no	yes	varies by product and surface types	no
Is flammable	no	no	no	yes	no	no	varies by product
Susceptibility of Agents							
Mold and bacterial endospores	yes	yes at 5000 ppm	no	no	no	no	no
Non-enveloped (naked) viruses	yes	yes	variable ²	variable ²	variable ²	variable ²	no
Mycobacterium spp.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Vegetative bacteria	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Enveloped viruses	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Health Hazards: General Guidance Provided (always review SDS of product for more details)							
Toxic	varies by product	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Skin irritant	varies by product	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Eye irritant	varies by product	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no
Respiratory irritant	varies by product	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes
Key Product Benefits							
Available sterile	varies by product	varies by product	no	yes	yes	no	varies by product
Available in wipes	varies by product	varies by product	yes	yes	yes	no	varies by product
Available RTU - ready to use	varies by product	varies by product	yes	yes	yes	yes	varies by product
Suitable HD decontamination	varies by product	varies by product	no	no	no	no	varies by product

¹ Active or blended concentrations need to be maintained to achieve desired efficacy.

² Results will vary depending on the virus.

³ Certain formulations can achieve intermediate disinfectant efficacy, but health hazards and benefits may change.