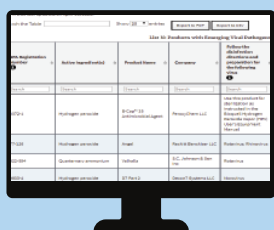




What Infection Preventionists Need to Know About Disinfectants

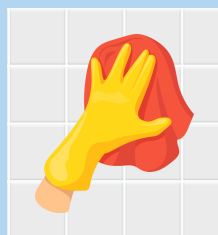
Steps for safe and effective disinfectant use:



- **Check your product** for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved number
 - Find the EPA registration number on the label (note: if there isn't a number, it's a cleaner, not a disinfectant. Cleaners remove dirt, and disinfectants kill germs. Both steps are necessary.)
 - Confirm the disinfectant is on the EPA's list of approved disinfectants (see link on page 2)



- **Check the label to identify the germs it kills (e.g., bacteria, virus, fungi)**
 - The label will also explain if the product should be diluted and gives instructions for correct dilution



- Remember that the **disinfectant can't work until the surface is clean**
 - One-step detergent-disinfectants clean and disinfect at the same time, so the same product can be used for both steps
 - If a surface is very soiled, clean it with a cleaner first and then use a disinfectant



- **Make sure the surface is wet for the entire contact time**
 - A general rule of thumb is to go with the longest contact time listed on the label



- **Make sure staff use the required personal protective equipment (PPE)**
 - Use appropriate PPE as listed on the disinfectant label
 - Cleaning rooms of patients on Contact or Enhanced Standard Precautions may require gowns and gloves



- **Ensure cleaning cart is locked**
 - Locking cleaning carts prevents unauthorized access to disinfectant products



Practices to Avoid For Disinfectant Use

- Don't mix or dilute the disinfectant unless specified on the label.
- Don't "top off" or add new solution to containers containing old solution.
- Don't mix different disinfectants! For example, don't mix bleach with quaternary ammonium compounds ("quats") or any other disinfectants. This can create a hazardous situation.
- Avoid using spray bottles.
- Rather than using cotton cloths to apply disinfectants, use saturated microfiber cloths.

SCAN ME



Scan for more information on
cleaning and disinfection.

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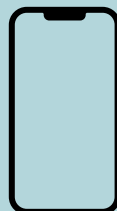
Scan for more information on EPA's
list of approved disinfectants.

See List K for disinfectants effective
against *Clostridioides difficile*.

See List P for disinfectants effective
against *Candida auris*.



Notes:



Scan here to access additional EVS
training materials to train EVS staff
**Tip: Train staff to use one-step
detergent-disinfectant products**

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