

COVID-19

Disinfectants: 12 Things To Know

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There has been a lot of MISINFORMATION when it comes to Disinfectants. I want to make sure ISG members are Good Stewards of proper information when it comes to chemicals within these trying times.

- 1) **USAGE & CONSUMPTION** - Under *NO CIRCUMSTANCES* should any Disinfectant be injected or ingested by humans or into humans. Disinfectants are ONLY made to be used on hard surfaces.
- 2) **READ THE LABEL** – All disinfectants have labels and instructions of use, and it is the personal responsibility of anyone using any chemical to properly read the label prior to use.
- 3) **SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)** – It should be good practice for end users to read Safety Data Sheets which will give them additional information about how to use the product and what to do in case there is an accident.
- 4) **DIRECTIONS** – after reading a disinfectant’s label, it’s important to follow those instructions closely for the product to work correctly. The label & the SDS information will always be the definitive word on a particular product, and will override what someone is told, explained, or reads from other sources about that particular product or general disinfecting.
- 5) **HAZARDS** – Disinfectants should always be used while wearing PPE. Hand, Breathing, and Eye protection should always be worn while using a disinfectant. *MULTIPLE CHEMICALS SHOULD NEVER BE MIXED TOGETHER*. Mixing disinfectants with a chemical to make it more pleasing to the sense of smell will only deactivate the killing agencies of the Disinfectant.
- 6) **BLEACH** is an extremely Volatile disinfecting chemical. This comment goes to point #2, few people read the label of how to properly dilute bleach. Additionally, Bleach continually gets weaker as time passes. Dependent on when the bleach product was manufactured, may actually make it ineffective.
- 7) **EXPIRATION DATES** - All Disinfectants have an Expiration Date. Most Disinfectants hold a 2 year shelf life.
- 8) **CLEANING IS ESSENTIAL** – Before disinfecting any hard surface, it must be clear of any visual debris.
- 9) **WET & DWELL TIME** – upon studying labels and information about different disinfectants your come to realize that not all disinfectants are equal. Disinfectants each has a set time it is to sit on a surface wet or time it “dwells” on a surface to kill particular germs, bacteria, & viruses. The time that it takes to kill a particular microorganism will vary among disinfectants. In fact, the “Kill Time” of any single disinfectant can vary, that is dependent on the type of microorganism you’re looking to target.
- 10) **MOLD** – Disinfectants are not designed to kill mold. Only those products with mold killing claims are to be considered during to perform that task.
- 11) **PROPERLY LABEL** – If you are using a diluted disinfectant or pouring the mixture into a secondary vessel (i.e. spray bottle), and then you must properly label that secondary vessel. The manufacturer of a disinfectant should be able to provide physical or electronic forms of Secondary Labels for end users to apply to secondary vessels. Additionally, OSHA will recognize an attached SDS to a secondary label as proper labeling, because it has all the information that OSHA requires on a product’s label. An end user can trifold & apply the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) to a secondary vessel with clear tape. *Permeant marker is **NOT** an acceptable way of labeling a secondary vessel for any chemical.*
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3636.pdf>
- 12) **EPA REGULATES DISINFECTANTS** – Because disinfectants kill microorganism, they are rated as Pesticides, thus the jurisdiction, rules, and control of disinfectant industry falls under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They have stringent rules for how disinfectants should be presented, and have set up a specific page for products that are effective against SARS-CoV-2, better known as COVID-19, or the Novel Coronavirus.
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>