

How to read disinfectant labels

What to look for when choosing a disinfectant for hard surfaces*



1 CLEAN & DISINFECT

Check the label to see if the product can both **"clean"** and **"disinfect"**. Surfaces must always be clean before disinfection, so choose a product that can do both. If the disinfectant cannot do both, a separate cleaning product must be used on the surface first.

2 EFFECTIVE AGAINST

Check the label to make sure the disinfectant can kill (or is effective against) a virus from one of the following:

- **Picornaviridae** (such as rhinovirus) OR **Parvoviridae** (such as canine parvovirus) OR **Caliciviridae** (such as feline calicivirus) OR **Astroviridae** (such as human astrovirus) OR **Polyomaviridae** (such as human polyomavirus)

If the disinfectant is strong enough to kill even one virus in any one of these groups, it can kill every kind of virus. It will also provide effective disinfection against bacteria. If your current disinfectant has a DIN but is not effective against one of these viruses, next time select one that is.

3 READY-TO-USE (RTU)

Check the label for the words **"ready-to-use" (RTU)**. RTU disinfectants are pre-mixed at the correct concentration. The other option is concentrated products, which have instructions about how to dilute them prior to use. RTU disinfectants are better because they minimize the chance of mistakes when mixing, which makes them safer and easier to use.



4 WET CONTACT TIME

Check the label for the **wet contact time**. Wet contact time is the minimum time the surface must stay wet after the disinfectant is applied. Choose disinfectants with a wet contact time of 5 minutes or less. After applying the disinfectant, never dry a surface (like with paper towels or a cloth), it must be allowed to air dry.

5 DIN

Check the label for a **"DIN"** number. All disinfectants must have a DIN (except bleach and high concentration alcohols). An "NPN" number is not the same as a "DIN".

6 EXPIRY DATE

Check the **expiry date**. Never use expired disinfectants. The date is not usually found on the label, check the packaging near the label.

Scan the QR code to learn more about environmental cleaning and infection prevention and control in different settings.



*Disclaimer: This document does not apply to any equipment or tools, food contact surfaces, or products without a "DIN" number on the label. This document does not include additional instructions found on disinfectant labels such as safe use and handling of chemical products. Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU) on the disinfectant label. The MIFU must be followed for the disinfectant to work properly.