

Selecting the Right Disinfectant for your Personal Service Business

Selecting the right disinfectant for your personal service business is important. Certain instruments and equipment need stronger disinfectants than others.

How to select the right disinfectant

All disinfectants in Canada must have a [Drug Identification Number \(DIN\)](#) or a [Medical Device License \(MDL\)](#).

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approvals are not approved for use in Canada. Use the chart below to help you select the right type of disinfectant(s) for your business.

Low-level Disinfectant	Intermediate-level Disinfectant	High-level Disinfectant
DIN number	DIN number	MDL (may not be on label)
General disinfectant claim on the manufacturer's label	General disinfectant claim on the manufacturer's label	General disinfectant claim on the manufacturer's label
	A tuberculocidal or mycobactericidal claim on the manufacturer's label	A tuberculocidal or mycobactericidal claim on the manufacturer's label
		Statement on the manufacturer's label that is a high-level disinfectant, chemical sterilant, or sporicidal
Suitable for non-critical instruments and equipment which do not touch the client directly or only encounter intact skin	Suitable for non-critical instruments and equipment which are intended to contact intact skin but may accidentally contact non-intact skin	Suitable for semi-critical instruments and equipment which are intended to contact non-intact skin or a mucous membrane, but do not penetrate it
<i>Examples:</i> Quaternary ammonia compounds (QUATS). 3% hydrogen peroxide. 100ppm sodium hypochlorite solution	<i>Examples:</i> 0.5% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action). Isopropyl alcohol, 70-90%. 1000ppm sodium hypochlorite solution	7% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action) 2% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action) 5000ppm sodium hypochlorite solution

Critical instruments and equipment are those that enter a sterile area or penetrate skin. They must be sterile until point of use. Only commercially sterilized instruments or steam sterilization are permitted for critical instruments and equipment.

Facility Considerations

- Use personal protective equipment (gloves, aprons, masks, etc.).
- Thoroughly clean instruments and equipment before disinfection.
- Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Have appropriate, labeled containers for soaking instruments. The label should contain the name of the disinfectant, the contact time and the date it expires.
- Completely submerge instruments and equipment in the disinfectant for the required contact time.
- Avoid prolonged soaking.
- Allow enough counter space to properly clean, rinse, disinfect and dry instruments and equipment.
- Handle disinfected items with clean hands.
- Air dry on a lint free surface and store in a manner to prevent re-contamination.
- Have the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) information on-site and easily accessible to employees for each chemical used.

For More Information

Contact Environmental Health at 902-368-4970 or envhealth@ihis.org

