

Appendix K: Disinfectants

BC Centre for Disease Control (2004)

www.bccdc.org/downloads/pdf/lab/reports/Infection_Control_In_Physician_Office_Final.pdf

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL DISINFECTANTS:

Disinfectant/Use	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Alcohols (Ethanol preferred as works against both influenza and norovirus)</p> <p>Intermediate level disinfectant</p> <p>Disinfect thermometers, external surfaces of some equipment</p>	<p>Fast acting</p> <p>No residue</p> <p>Non staining</p>	<p>Volatile</p> <p>Evaporation may diminish concentration</p> <p>May harden rubber or cause deterioration of glues</p> <p>Intoxicating</p>
<p>Chlorine</p> <p>Intermediate level disinfectant</p> <p>Disinfect environmental surfaces (1:50 bleach)</p> <p>Following blood spills; (1:10 bleach) used to decontaminate area after blood has been removed</p>	<p>Low cost</p> <p>Fast acting</p> <p>Readily available in non hospital settings</p>	<p>Corrosive to metals</p> <p>Inactivated by organic material</p> <p>Irritant to skin and mucous membranes</p> <p>Use in well-ventilated areas</p> <p>Shelf life shortens when diluted</p>

LOW LEVEL DISINFECTANTS:

Disinfectant/Use	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Hydrogen peroxide</p> <p>Low level disinfectant (3%)</p> <p>High level disinfectant (6%)</p>	<p>Strong oxidant</p> <p>Fast acting</p> <p>Breaks down into water and oxygen</p>	<p>Can be corrosive to aluminum, copper, brass or zinc</p> <p>Surface active with limited ability to penetrate</p>
<p>Phenolics</p> <p>Low/intermediate level disinfectants</p> <p>Clean floors, walls and furnishings</p>	<p>Leaves residual film on environmental surfaces</p> <p>Commercially available with added detergents to provide one-step cleaning and disinfecting</p>	<p>Do not use in nurseries</p> <p>Not recommended for use on food contact surfaces</p> <p>May be absorbed through skin or by rubber</p> <p>Some synthetic flooring may become sticky with repetitive use</p>

To achieve a level of at least 100 ppm of residual chlorine with household bleach, 2 mL of household bleach should be added for every liter of water. Bleach solutions should be freshly mixed before use.