

Benzalkonium Chloride Facts – from Wikipedia and other sources

The applications of benzalkonium chloride are extremely wide ranging, from disinfectant formulations, such as being an active ingredient in Dettol and Lysol brand products, to microbial corrosion inhibition in the oilfield sector, and a multi-surface mold, algae and moss remover. Benzalkonium chloride has been in clinical use since 1935 and is contained in a wide variety of prescription and over-the-counter products.

It is used in:

- * Hand sanitizers contain 0.11 - 0.13% concentration of Benzalkonium Chloride
- * Skin antiseptics, such as **Bactine** (0.13%), to protect scrapes and cuts
- * Processing aid for lettuce and carrots – **Free and Clear** – uses 2.0 % of Benzalkonium Chloride
- * Pharmaceuticals such as throat lozenges
- * Preservative in pharmaceuticals and personal care products such as eye, ear and nasal drops, as a preservative Contact Lens Solution contains .002 % - 0.01% concentration of Benzalkonium Chloride
- * Hygienic towelettes and wet wipes – **Lysol Wipes** at 1.0%
- * Cleaners for floor and hard surfaces as a disinfectant
- * Soak solutions for surgical/dental instruments prior to high-level sterilization
- * Spray disinfectants for hard surface sanitization
- * Over-the-counter single-application treatments for herpes, cold-sores, and fever blisters, such as **RELEEV** (0.13%) and **Viroxyn** (0.13%)
- * Algaecide for clearing of algae, moss, lichens from paths, roof tiles, swimming pools, masonry and in horticultural greenhouse disinfection (all are at 50% then diluted in water)

Hand sanitizers based on benzalkonium chloride are more effective due to better residual activity and less irritant than alcohol gels. As an antiseptic, it has the advantage of not burning when put on a wound, which is not the case with ethanol-based antiseptics or hydrogen peroxide.