

Popular Disinfectant Types

OXIDIZING

Sodium Hypochlorite (Bleach)

Effective Against

- Bacteria, yeasts, and TB
- Viruses, including resistant ones
- Fungi, **and spores**

Cons

- Can be corrosive
- Fumes are dangerous (heavier than air)
- Lethal when mixed with other cleaners

Pros

- Highly recommended for cleaning bodily fluids
- Inexpensive
- Can be used in food prep areas

Hydrogen Peroxide

Effective Against

- Bacteria, yeasts
- Viruses, including resistant ones
- Fungi, but not spores*

Cons

- Can be corrosive
- High concentrations are dangerous
- Loses effectiveness around organic matter

Pros

- Broad spectrum
- Environmentally friendly (turns into water & oxygen)
- Can be used in food prep areas

NON-OXIDIZING

Quaternary Ammonium (QUAT)

Effective Against

- Bacteria, yeasts, (TB with additional additives)
- Viruses, including resistant ones
- Fungi, but not spores

Cons

- High concentrations are dangerous
- Can build up on fabrics
- Not recommended for food prep areas**

Pros

- Less toxic than bleach
- Leaves coating that lasts on surface
- Is catalytic – doesn't lose effectiveness

Alcohols (such as Ethanol & Isopropyl)

Effective Against

- Bacteria, yeasts
- Viruses
- Fungi, but not spores

Cons

- Flammable
- Evaporates quickly
- Loses effectiveness around organic matter

Pros

- Can be used to clean equipment & electronics
- Fast-acting
- No toxic residue

*Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP) products are available that can kill spores.

**Use of QUATS in food preparation areas requires a low concentration and extra step of rinsing with water.