



SANITIZATION • DISINFECTION • STERILIZATION: KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Cleaning and disinfecting are part of a broad approach to preventing infectious diseases any facilities. Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects, while disinfecting kills germs on. Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.





1. CLEAN AND DISINFECT SURFACES & OBJECTS THAT ARE OFTEN TOUCHED:

Most standard procedures for any public or private facility includes daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and more.

Immediately clean surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled. If surfaces or objects are soiled with body fluids or blood, use gloves and other standard precautions to avoid coming into contact with the fluid. Remove the spill, and then clean and disinfect the surface.

2. SIMPLY PUT: ROUTINE CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

It is important to match your cleaning and disinfecting activities to the types of germs you want to remove or kill. Most studies have shown that certain viruses can live and potentially infect a person for up to 48 hours after being deposited on a surface.

3. CLEAN AND DISINFECT CORRECTLY:

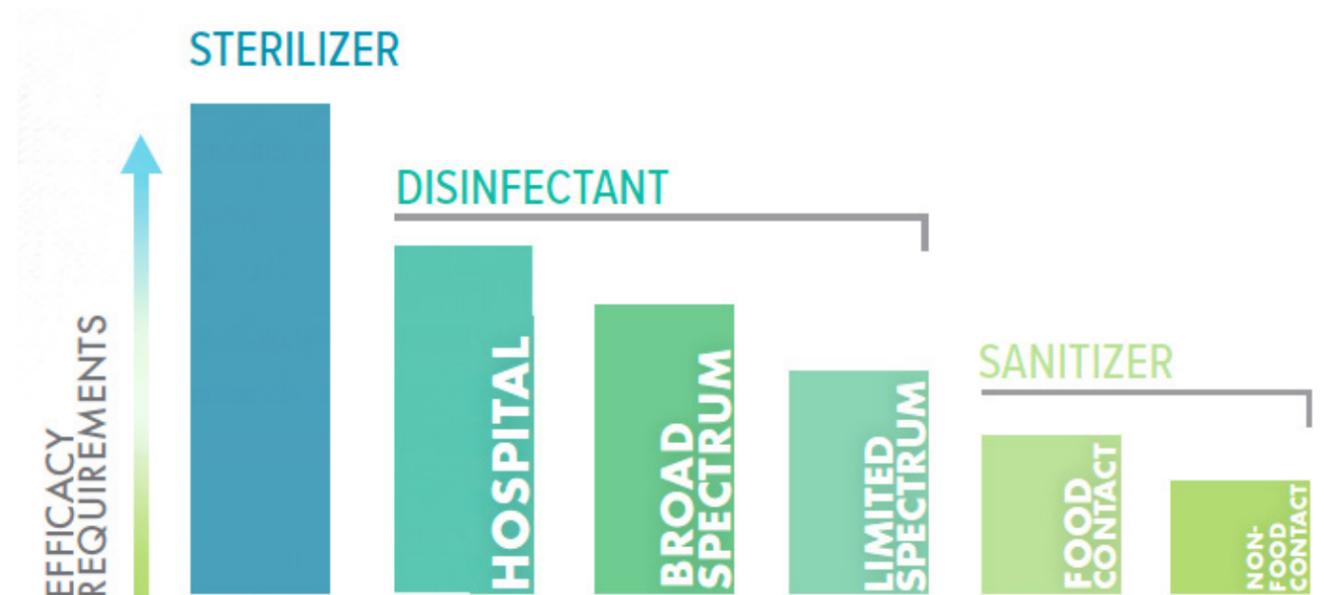
Always follow label directions on cleaning products and disinfectants. Wash surfaces with a general household cleaner to remove germs. Rinse with water, and follow with an EPA-registered disinfectant to kill germs. Read the label to make sure it states that EPA has approved the product for effectiveness against certain viruses.

4. USE PRODUCTS SAFELY:

Pay close attention to hazard warnings and directions on product labels. Cleaning products and disinfectants often call for the use of gloves or eye protection. For example, gloves should always be worn to protect your hands when working with bleach solutions.

Do not mix cleaners and disinfectants unless the labels indicate it is safe to do so. Combining certain products (such as chlorine bleach and ammonia cleaners) can result in serious injury or death.

EPA Classifications





Why should I care about contact time?

The shorter the contact time, the shorter the time needed to perform the disinfectant process. The maximum contact time for a disinfectant is 10 minutes.

STERILIZER

A sterilizer kill all bacteria and spores on environmental surfaces. Quaternaries are not sterilants since they are not effective against spores.

SANITIZER

A sanitizer reduces bacteria on environmental surfaces to a level that is considered safe by public health organizations.

DISINFECTANT

A disinfectant kills all bacteria on environmental surfaces.

BROAD SPECTRUM

The EPA's definition of a "broad spectrum" disinfectant is one that has public health claims for all three of the major classes of organisms.

- **Bacteria** – effective against gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria.
- **Fungi** – effective against at least one pathogenic fungi (usually *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*).
- **Viruses** – effective against pathogenic viruses (at least one enveloped).

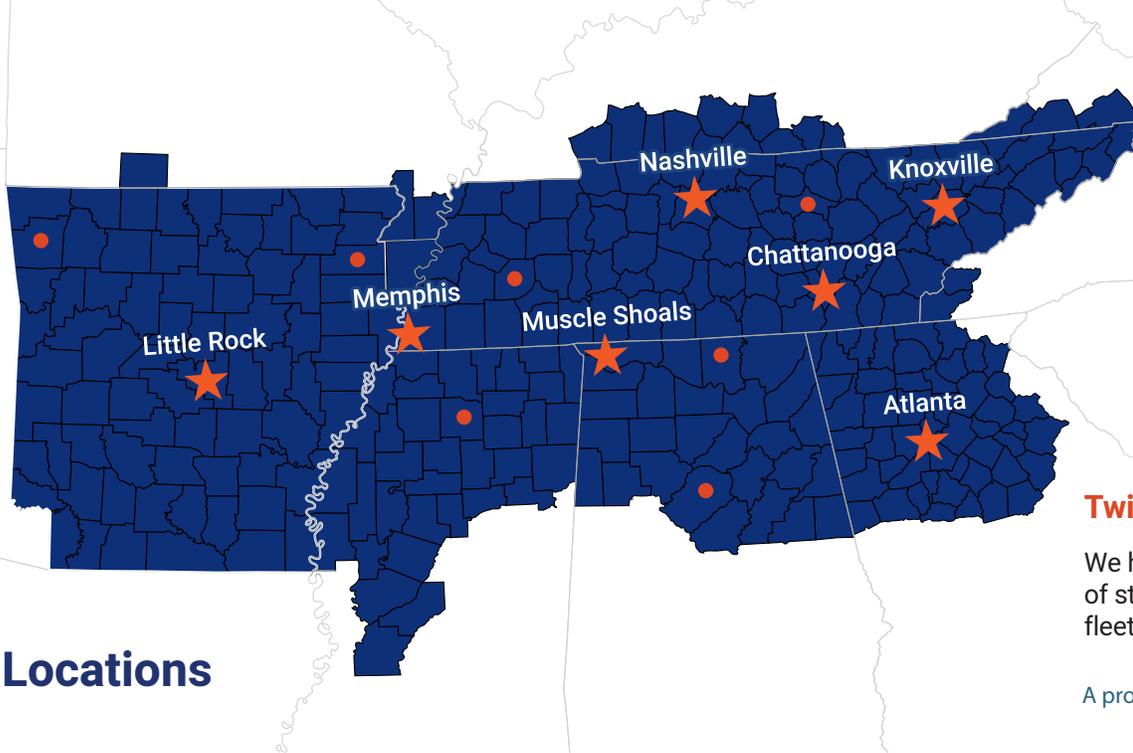
LIMITED SPECTRUM

Must be supported by efficacy testing against either *Salmonella cholerasuis* or *Staphylococcus aureus*.

HOSPITAL

Must be supported by AOAC Use Dilution or AOAC Germicidal Spray efficacy testing against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella cholerasuis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

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