

Guidelines for the Use of Disinfectants in Body Art Facilities

Department of Public Health and Environment



All disinfecting agents used in Body Art facilities **shall** be registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA classifies disinfectant products based on the number and stringency of tests they are required to pass. Disinfectants must be shown to be effective against 99.99% of bacteria in multiple tests. Disinfectants are further classified into three categories, depending on effectiveness: limited efficacy, general efficacy and hospital disinfectants. Products registered as hospital disinfectants will usually have label information indicating effectiveness against *Salmonella enterica* (also known as *Salmonella choleraesuis*), *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The EPA requires that hospital disinfectants are proven effective against these three organisms.

Disinfectants should be used on hard surfaces to destroy infectious bacteria and fungi. In Body Art facilities, *hospital disinfectants* shall be used on surfaces known to be or commonly contaminated with bodily secretions and excretions.

There are several chemical agents approved for disinfecting in Body Art facilities. To evaluate the use of a particular product, follow these guidelines:

For immediate work areas or other surfaces contaminated with bodily secretions or excretions (blood, vomit, feces, urine, sputum and mucus), the product is approved if:

- It is registered with the EPA as a hospital disinfectant effectiveness against *Salmonella enterica* (also known as *Salmonella choleraesuis*), *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*;
- It is used according to the manufacturer's instructions, including concentration, contact time, method, and surfaces. Checking the contact time is very important as products vary from 1-15 minutes of contact time. This means that the chemical agent must remain **wet** on the surface for the contact time specified on the product's label.

Chlorine Disinfectant

The most commonly used and approved chemical disinfecting agent is **sodium hypochlorite** (chlorine bleach). Bleach can be used to sanitize or disinfect, depending on the dilution or concentration prepared. Common household bleach (i.e., Clorox) usually contains 8.25% sodium hypochlorite. If the label on the household bleach specifies a percentage of sodium hypochlorite other than 8.25%, the following recipe will not be accurate, and the solution must be made according to labeled instructions. Chlorine test strips should also be used to verify the concentration of the disinfectant solution.

Application:

- 1/2 cup or 8 tablespoons or 4 ounces of chlorine bleach (8.25% sodium hypochlorite) per **gallon** of water or,
- 1/8 cup or 2 tablespoons or 1 ounces of chlorine bleach (8.25% sodium hypochlorite) per **quart** of water
- Concentration for disinfectant is 2,500 ppm + of chlorine bleach
- Contact time is at least five minutes
- final rinse step

EPA Hospital Disinfectants

Below is a link to current hospital disinfectants and EPA registration numbers (located on the label). Use this link as a guide to find other approved disinfectants:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants#pathogens>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

All disinfectants must be used in a manner consistent with their labeling. If, after reading a label, you question its use, please do not hesitate to contact your local health department. Guidance is also available from the National Pesticide Information Center at 1-800-858-7378.