Recommended Disinfectants

Table 1

Class of Disinfectant	Advantages	Disadvantages
Phenols (Lysol, Tek-trol, Environ)	Effective against fungi & many bacteria Retain efficacy in presence of organic material	Pine-tar odor Turn "milky" in water
Iodophors (Betadine, Isodyne, Eladol)	Effective against bacteria & many viruses	Can stain clothing & surfaces Does not work well in presence or organic material
Hypochlorites (Bleach, Halazone)	Relatively inexpensive Effective against bacteria & many viruses	More active in warm water Irritating to skin Corrosive to metal
Quaternary Ammonium (Germex, Virex, Vindicator)	Odorless, non-irritating, deodorizing, colorless Have detergent action	Inactivated in the presence of some soaps or soap residues
Oxidizing Agents (Hydrogen Peroxide)	Effective against bacteria & spores, viruses, & fungi Active at low concentrations	Must keep in tight, cool container Avoid direct sunlight
Compound Cresol	Effective against bacteria & most viruses Non-corrosive Soapy – mechanically lifts dirt away	Apply hot to be most effective Has odor hat can be absorbed by food products (ex. eggs)
Formals	Effective against bacteria, viruses, fungus & spores	Carcenogenic

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