GUIDANCE ON SANITIZERS IN WASHWATER:
FOR GROWERS SEEKING GAPS CERTIFICATION

GAPs Auditors will now be verifying the application and use of any sanitizers and disinfectants used in your operation.

If you are using sanitizers* in dump tanks, sinks or tubs to wash or rinse fresh produce, in sprays or wipes to treat fresh produce, or to clean contact surfaces, you must ensure that you are only using it for the specific type(s) of crops and at the correct concentration or PPM (parts per million) for that crop and use as described on the product label.

YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE ON HAND FOR THE AUDITOR TO REVIEW:

1. The label for the product (it will be on the container the product came in)

2. If applicable, a standard operating procedure (SOP) that describes how to use the sanitizer(s) in wash water. The details of the SOP should include:
   a. The name of the specific product you’re using
   b. The volume of water to be treated
   c. The amount of product to be added
   d. The timing of water change(s), and
   e. How to test the product concentration and pH of wash water prior to use.

   The amount of product used will vary as different products are effective at, and labeled for, different concentrations (parts per million or PPM). The label will tell you what range of PPM to use the product at. Different crops may need different concentrations of product. If this is the case, your SOPs should indicate what concentration of sanitizer you are using for different crops.** More info on how to write SOPs is [here](https://example.com).

3. If applicable, have a separate SOP for how to use sanitizer to clean contact surfaces (equipment, packing areas, harvest containers, etc.).

4. Records (logs) documenting implementation of the items in your SOP. Each time you use the sanitizer or disinfectant you must record the information described in your SOP. Keep these logs on a clipboard, notebook or electronic spreadsheet for easy inspection by the auditor and for your own quality control. There is a sample produce wash water sanitizer log [here](https://example.com). You should modify it for your operation.

5. If the label mentions any personal protective equipment, such as gloves, goggles, aprons, close-toed shoes, etc., the auditor will verify that workers are using these also. More information on using sanitizer safely can be found [here](https://example.com).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO USE SANITIZERS see the new section titled “Using Sanitizers in Wash Water” on the UVM Extension GAPs website: [http://go.uvm.edu/0lv2v](http://go.uvm.edu/0lv2v)
The second page of this factsheet on **Using Produce Wash Water Sanitizers** compares a few different sanitizer products and cost per dosing rate.

*SANITIZER PRODUCTS* that are labeled for reducing pathogens in fruit and vegetable wash water include the following. Click on the name to see the label. There are other brands on the market.

- **VigorOx 15 F&V** (PAA-based product) Order from [Peroxychem](http://www.peroxychem.com) or [Surpass Chemical](http://www.surpasschemical.com)
- **Tsunami 100** (PAA-based product) Order from [Ecolab](http://www.ecolab.com) (1-800-392-2293)
- **Sanidate 5.0** (PAA-based product) is not currently labeled for use to reduce public health pathogens in fruit and vegetable processing water. However, it is labeled for reducing these pathogens on hard contact surfaces and for controlling certain plant pathogens in wash water.

*Most of the PAA-based products must be used with test strips or test kits that are specific for that product. Ask vendors or manufacturers about the most appropriate test strip for the PAA-based sanitizer you are using.*

- **Clorox Germicidal Bleach** (label not available on web, refer label on container) (EPA Reg. No 5813-100)

*Serim is one brand that makes a test strip that can monitor for low ranges of free chlorine. Available through [SanitationTools.com](http://sanitationtools.com)*

MORE SANITIZER RESOURCES

- Chris Callahan has created a calculator for determining doses of sanitizers in wash water linked from the word calculator in the first paragraph [here](http://www.sanitationtools.com/sanitizer-calculator).
- **Example SOP for using chlorine bleach in wash water** [here](http://www.sanitationtools.com/sanitizer-calculator).

*Note: Every product will have different required instructions which will be listed on their labels, so your SOPs should match the instruction on the label of the product you are using, the SOP examples here are offered for guidance only.*

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact Ginger at: [gnickers@uvm.edu](mailto:gnickers@uvm.edu) or Cell: 802-505-8189

*Any reference to commercial products, trade names, or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended.*

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