Disinfectant Property Table

Type	Properties	Limitations
Activated Hydrogen Peroxide	• Broad effectiveness • Non-corrosive • Lower contact time • No scent or residue • Non-toxic and non-staining • Longer shelf life	• Generally not active against bacterial spores • Combined products including acid to inactivate bacterial spores require special PPE
Alcohols	• Inexpensive • No residue • No odor	• Varied activity • Sufficient contact time can be challenging • Flammable • NOT appropriate for use with human material
Aldehydes	• Non-corrosive • Broad effectiveness • Bacterial sporicidal at extended contact time	• Limited shelf-life once diluted • May require special PPE
Chlorine (bleach)	• Broad effectiveness • Effective against bacterial spores at higher contact time • Cheap • Little residue • Readily available	• Corrosive • May be inactivated by organic matter • Longer contact time • Limited shelf life once diluted unless ready-to-use product with stabilizers
Iodophors	• Broad effectiveness • Long shelf life	• Inactivated by organic matter • Poor residual activity • Concentration must be 1-3% for efficacy • May stain surfaces
Quaternary ammonium compounds (quats)	• Non-corrosive • Slight residue • Some scent • Lower contact time • Longer shelf life	• Varied activity • Not active against bacterial spores • Can be inactivated by organic matter
Phenolics	• Non-corrosive • Not easily inactivated by organic matter	• May require PPE due to toxicity • Unpleasant smell • Residue