

How to Read the Label

The surface cleaning product label has information you need for safe and effective use.



1 Surface Types

Products are tested for use on various types of surfaces. The label will list some of the most common surfaces to help determine efficacy.

2 Dwell Times

A disinfectant must remain visibly wet for a certain amount of time. Find dwell times to kill various organisms on the label or technical bulletin created by the manufacturer.

3 Directions for Use

Directions for effective use will be listed along with any steps required before and/or after using a product.

4 Storage and Disposal

The label will define safe storage and disposal. Some products may require storage within certain temperatures or special disposal.

Understanding toxicity and labels.

The EPA established four toxicity categories that apply to disinfectants.

- Category I** – highly toxic and severely irritating, label will say “DANGER”
- Category II** – moderately toxic and moderately irritating, label will say “WARNING”
- Category III** – slightly toxic and slightly irritating, label will say “CAUTION”
- Category IV** – practically non-toxic and not an irritant, no toxicity label required

IMPORTANT! It is a violation of Federal Law to use a disinfecting product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. Protect yourself and your organization by always *reading and heeding* product labels.