

# Disinfecting Vs. Sanitizing

When it comes to decontamination, should you be disinfecting or sanitizing?

**Sanitizers** are able to destroy 99.9% of bacteria identified on the efficacy data sheet in 60 seconds.

- Reduces the level of germs on a surface quickly.
- Gentler than disinfecting.
- Does require a dwell time. *\*Dwell time is the amount of time a disinfectant needs to remain wet on a surface to effectively disinfect the surface.*

Where are sanitizers typically used?

- Kitchens
- Dishes
- Utensils
- Children's toys

**Disinfectants** destroy 99.999% of germs listed on the efficacy data sheet.

- Tested by the EPA and proven to kill specific germs on a surface in 10 minutes.
- Have a more focused and specific use against certain bacteria, fungi, viruses, and diseases.
- If used correctly, the surface will be highly unlikely to transmit infection or disease.
- Require a dwell time. *\*Dwell time is the amount of time a disinfectant needs to remain wet on a surface to effectively disinfect the surface.*

Where are disinfectants typically used?

- Diaper changing stations
- Light switches
- Doorknobs
- Toilets
- Handrails
- Areas that come in contact with blood or other bodily fluids.
- Chair handles

If it is more important to kill most germs, take the time to use a disinfectant. If you're trying to kill some of the germs quickly, use a sanitizer.

Both methods are more effective at removing potentially harmful bacteria than cleaning alone.