

Watch Out for That Disinfectant!

It Might Not Be Working If...

Bleach

- it's not **EPA registered** for hard surface disinfection
- it's not **freshly diluted** just before use
- it's used on **porous surfaces**
- the water used for dilution **has a lot of minerals** or is unusually "hard"
- the bleach is **more than 1 year old** (limited shelf life, degrades over time)
- surfaces are **not "thoroughly wet"** for the **entire required dwell** or contact time
- the **label instructions are not followed**
- your **bleach-water becomes dirty**
- the **surfaces are very dirty or not cleaned first** (bleach is NOT a cleaning agent)
- your container is **dirty or has soapy residues**
- your **applicator is dirty or has soapy residues**

Quaternary Ammonium (Quat)

- it's **used on soapy surfaces**
- the water used for dilution **has a lot of minerals** or is unusually "hard"
- the **label instructions are not followed**
- it's used on **porous surfaces**
- the **label does not list the target germ**
- your cleaning rag **is made of cotton or certain types of synthetic fibers**
- surfaces are **not "thoroughly wet"** for the **entire required dwell** or contact time
- your **water solution becomes dirty or murky**
- the **surfaces are very dirty or not cleaned first** (gross filth)
- your container is **dirty or has soapy residues**
- your **applicator is dirty or has soapy residues**

Phenolics

- it's **used on soapy surfaces**
- it's **used with "hard" water** containing many minerals
- it's used on **porous surfaces**
- surfaces are **not "thoroughly wet"** for the **entire required dwell** or contact time
- the **label instructions are not followed**
- the **label does not list the target organism**
- your container is **dirty or has soapy residues**
- the **surfaces are very dirty or not cleaned first** (gross filth)
- your **applicator is dirty or has soapy residues**

Watch Out for That Disinfectant!

It Might Hurt You or Other People If...

Bleach

- it's **mixed with acidic cleaners** (e.g., many toilet bowl cleaners)
- it's **mixed with ammonia**
- it's **mixed with vinegar**
- it **gets in your eyes or on your skin**
- you **breathe concentrated fumes**
- you don't **use the required precautions or the PPE**
- the **waste water is not properly disposed of**

Quaternary Ammonium (Quats)

- it **gets in your eyes or on your skin**
- if you **breathe concentrated fumes**
- you accidentally **ingest it**
- If you don't **use the required precautions or required PPE**
- the **residues are not removed** from the treated surfaces
- the **waste water is not properly disposed of**
- it is **absorbed by your body**

Phenolics

- you accidentally **ingest it**
- it **gets on your skin or in your eyes**
- you **breathe concentrated fumes**
- you don't **use the required precautions or required PPE**
- the **residues are not removed** from the treated surfaces
- the **waste water is not properly disposed of**
- it is **absorbed by your body**