



Practice Briefs

Where can I find a list of the cleaning/disinfecting products effective for killing bacteria and viruses?

There are many products on the market today, and not all of them are approved for cleaning/disinfecting healthcare environments.

The Environmental Protection Agency has lists of approved products which kill targeted bacteria and viruses.

If you are looking for cleaning agents effective to kill *Clostridium difficile*, you can access the EPA's listing here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-k-epas-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-clostridium>.

If you are wanting an agent effective against TB and Hepatitis B, then you can access that EPA listing here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-e-epas-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-mycobacterium>.

You can find the main link for **all** EPA registered products here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>.

William Rutala PhD, MPH is internationally known as an expert in disinfection and sterilization. You may find his article on disinfection and room decontamination helpful in your decision of which agent would be best to use in your facility. The article was published in the American Journal of Infection Control in 2013, and specifics are listed below.

Article:

Disinfectants used for environmental disinfection and new room decontamination technology - William A. Rutala PhD, MPH, David J. Weber MD, MPH, American Journal of Infection Control, 41, 2013
Researching the right disinfectants for your facility: without damaging instruments or surfaces
Wava Truscott, PhD. MBA May 2017. [http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(13\)00010-2/abstract](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(13)00010-2/abstract). Accessed 3.29.18

Always follow the Manufacturer's instructions for use on the product you choose. The product must remain wet on environmental surfaces for a period of time to be effective in killing targeted bacteria and viruses.

ICAP is a cooperative effort of UNMC/Nebraska Medicine and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. "ICAP Practice Briefs" are intended to provide evidence-based guidance on infection prevention issues; check linked references directly for the most current and more detailed information.