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Hard Surface Disinfectants and Hand Sanitizers

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What we are doing

The health and safety of all Canadians is our priority. In addition to the measures reported in the Government of Canada's response to COVID-19 Health Canada is also implementing the following:

- interim measures to facilitate expedited access to hand sanitizers, disinfectants and personal protective equipment to address product shortages
- provide up to date lists of approved hand sanitizers and disinfectants approved for use against COVID-19 **and**
- provide information on Health Canada's quality requirements to ensure that the alcohol used in the preparation and distribution of hand sanitizers is safe

Hard surface disinfectants

Health Canada is working with disinfectant manufacturers and industry associations to better inform Canadians of the products available for use to help against the spread of infections during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses. This means they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant product when used according to the label directions.

Health Canada has published a list of hard surface disinfectants that are likely to be effective for use against coronavirus (COVID-19). This list is updated regularly.

Although they do not claim to kill viruses such as COVID-19, cleaners can play a role in helping limit the transfer of microorganisms. For high-touch surfaces such as door handles, toys and phones, Health Canada recommends cleaning these often with either:

- regular household cleaners or

- diluted bleach prepared in accordance with the instructions on the label, or in a ratio of 1 teaspoon (5 mL) per cup (250 mL) OR 4 teaspoons (20 mL) per litre (1000mL). This assumes bleach is 5 % sodium hypochlorite, to give a 0.1 % sodium hypochlorite solution.

Hygiene and hand sanitizers

Proper hygiene can help reduce the risk of infection or spreading infection to others:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the washroom and when preparing food
 - use alcohol-based hand sanitizers if soap and water are not available
 - always supervise young children when using hand sanitizers. Ingesting even small amounts of sanitizer can be fatal to small children
- when coughing or sneezing:
 - cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand
 - dispose of any tissues you have used as soon as possible in a lined waste basket and wash your hands afterwards
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands

Health Canada has published a [list of hand sanitizers](#) that are authorized for sale in Canada. This list is updated daily.

Never attempt to make hand sanitizer at home using alcohol intended for consumption, witch hazel, or essential oils. Doing so could be unsafe and will produce an ineffective product.

Contact us

You can contact Health Canada's Natural and Non-prescription Health Products Directorate at hc.nnhpd-dpsnso.sc@canada.ca

Related links

- [Canada's coronavirus disease response](#)
- [Guidance document - Disinfectant drugs](#)
- [Guide on Health Canada's Interim Expedited Licensing Approach for the Production and Distribution of Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers](#)
- [Guidance document - Management of disinfectant drug applications](#)
- [Expedited access to disinfectants, hand sanitizers and personal protective equipment](#)

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