Effective Disinfectants to Help Prevent the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) on Food Contact Surfaces

ALERT: A table of disinfectants was developed by ODA using an older version of EPA’s "List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2" (hereafter, List N). This table is not considered comprehensive, and has been removed. For an updated list of products that can be used on food-contact surfaces, you can do one of the following:

Option 1:
- Go to EPA’s List N website (https://oda.fyi/EPADisinfectantListN)
- Click "Other Search Options" to expand the list of options
- Go to the dropdown menu associated with “Surface Type,” and select a surface type that include “Food Contact No Rinse” or “Food Contact Post-Rinse Required”

Option 2:
- Go to EPA’s List N tool (https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm);
- Click “Launch”
- Click “Keyword Search”
- Type “food contact” in the search bar and click on the magnifying glass icon

List N is updated frequently. Please check it regularly. All products on "List N" meet EPA’s criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

For a disinfectant to be effective, it must remain visibly wet on a surface for a specific length of time (the contact time). The required contact time depends on the virus you want to kill and the product you are using. Some disinfectants (i.e., concentrates) must be diluted before use.

The label of a disinfectant product will list the organisms the disinfectant will kill when used according to label directions. A disinfectant must be tested for efficacy against an organism before it can list that organism on its label. There are no disinfectants that specifically list SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, on their label, although this may change in the future. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified products that are effective against similar or harder-to-kill viruses, and are therefore thought to be effective against SARS-CoV-2. Many of these products are registered for sale and distribution in Oregon, and each of them may be marketed under many trade names by several companies.

Read the product label to determine if you must rinse food-contact surfaces with potable water after disinfection.

Table has been removed. See directions above to identify a disinfectant to kill SARS-CoV-2 on food-contact surfaces.