



Identifying a Disinfectant Effective Against *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) **December 30, 2021**

Background

To be effective, disinfectants must remain visibly wet on a surface for a specific length of time (the **contact time**). The required contact time depends on the product and the organism you want to kill. Some disinfectants (i.e., concentrates) must be **diluted** before use. Use directions, including the contact time and target organisms, are on the product label. **Read and understand the entire label before using a disinfectant.**

The label of a disinfectant will list the organisms it kills when used according to label directions. A disinfectant must be tested and found to be effective against an organism before it can list that organism on its label. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified products that are effective specifically against the fungus *C. auris*. Many of these products are registered for sale and distribution in Oregon. These products may be marketed under different trade names by several companies.

Selecting and Applying a Disinfectant

Before purchasing and using a disinfectant to kill *C. auris*, confirm that it is effective against *C. auris* and registered for sale and distribution in Oregon. When treating surfaces, ensure that they remain visibly wet for the listed contact time. Otherwise, the product may not be effective in killing the fungus.

1. To determine if a specific disinfectant is effective against *C. auris*
 - a. Locate the EPA Registration Number on the pesticide label. It is often found at the beginning or end of the label. Look for “EPA Reg. No.” followed by two or three sets of numbers.¹
 - b. Go to EPA’s List P: Antimicrobial Products Registered with EPA for Claims Against Candida Auris (hereafter “List P”; <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-p-antimicrobial-products-registered-epa-claims-against-candida-auris>) and search the first two sets of numbers. If the EPA Reg. No. is present on this list, the product should be effective against *C. auris* when used correctly.²

2. To determine if the disinfectant under consideration is registered in Oregon

Go to ODA’s pesticide product database (https://mylicense.oda.state.or.us/plsapex/f?p=250:10::NO:RP,10:P10_PROGRAM:90) and search for the full EPA Reg. No. (which will have two or three sets of numbers). If your search shows the product name and company/manufacturer and has a status of “Registered,” then the product is registered in Oregon. Contact ODA if the status of the product is “Renewal Pending.”

3. To ensure effectiveness against *C. auris*

Follow the directions on the label to kill *C. auris*. In addition to “disinfection/fungicidal” or “fungicidal” directions, **the label may have special instructions for disinfection against *C. auris***. When using the product, ensure that the surface remains visibly wet for the whole contact time.

¹ For example, if EPA Reg. No. 12345-12 is on List P, you can buy EPA Reg. No. 12345-12-6789 and know you’re getting an equivalent product.

² If the EPA Reg. No. is NOT present on this list: EPA is continually identifying more products effective against *C. auris*; check List P regularly for additions.

Read the product label to find allowed surfaces and use sites. The label may also require you to clean surfaces before disinfecting them. If required by the label, dilute the product before use. Wear the personal protective equipment (e.g., specific type of gloves) specified on the label. **Never use disinfectants on people or animals.**

If you are unsure about how to properly apply a product, contact the manufacturer or email the Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticides Program at pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov. If you are unsure whether a specific product is registered in Oregon or on List P, please email pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov. In your email, please include the product name and EPA Reg. No. along with your question. This email is for disinfectant inquiries, not general *C. auris* inquiries.

