



Identifying a Disinfectant Effective against Monkeypox June 3, 2022

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, target organisms, and use sites (*e.g.*, food-contact surfaces) are on the product label. **Read and understand the entire label before using a disinfectant.**

A disinfectant's label 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. There are currently no disinfectants labeled specifically for use against monkeypox. However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified products that are effective against harder-to-kill viruses, and are expected to be effective against monkeypox. 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 monkeypox, confirm that it is effective against monkeypox and registered for sale and distribution in Oregon. When treating surfaces, ensure that they remain visibly wet for the entire contact time. Otherwise, the product may not effectively inactivate the virus.

1. To determine if a specific disinfectant is effective against monkeypox
 - a. Locate the EPA Registration Number on the label of the pesticide product that you are interested in using. 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 Q: Disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens (hereafter "List Q"; <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/disinfectants-emerging-viral-pathogens-evps-list-q>). Enter the first two sets of numbers in the EPA Registration

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

Number field. If the EPA Reg. No. is provided in the search results, the product should be effective against monkeypox when used correctly.²

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

Go to ODA's pesticide product database

(http://oda.state.or.us/dbs/pest_productsL2K/search.lasso) 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 on the container label 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 monkeypox

The far-right column of the List Q search results, "Follow directions for the following pathogen(s)," will state a virus harder-to-kill than monkeypox. Follow the directions on the disinfectant label for that harder-to-kill virus, and ensure that the treated surface remains visibly wet for the entire contact time stated in List Q. In addition to general disinfection directions, **the label may have special instructions for disinfection against the harder-to-kill virus stated in List Q or may have site-specific directions (e.g., "disinfection of food processing premises").**

Follow all label directions. Some labels may require you to clean surfaces before disinfecting them or dilute the product before use. Wear the personal protective equipment (e.g., specific type of gloves) specified on the label. **Never use surface 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 Q, 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 monkeypox inquiries.

For monkeypox information, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

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

