

RHDV Disinfectant Selection

Background

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 currently no disinfectants that specifically list RHDV2, the virus that causes Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, on their label, though 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 believed to be effective against RHDV2. Many of these products are registered for sale and distribution in Oregon, and each of them may be marketed under many different trade names by several different companies.

Selecting and Applying the Disinfectant

Before you purchase and/or use a disinfectant with the intention of killing RHDV2, you should confirm that it is believed to be effective against RHDV2 and is registered for sale and distribution in Oregon. When using the product on a surface, you must ensure the surface remains visibly wet for the appropriate contact time. Otherwise, the product may not be effective.

- **To determine if a specific disinfectant is believed to be effective against RHDV2**
 - Locate the EPA Registration Number on the pesticide label. This is often found at the beginning or end of the label. Look for “EPA Reg. No.” followed by two or three sets of numbers¹.
 - Go to EPA’s List O: Disinfectants for Use Against Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (hereafter “List O”); <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-o-disinfectants-use-against-rabbit-hemorrhagic-disease-virus-rhdv2> and search the first two sets of numbers. If the EPA Reg. No. is present on this list, the product is believed by EPA to be effective against RHDV2 when used correctly².
- **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 the search results return the product name and the company/manufacture on the label, and the product has a status of “Registered” or “Renewal Pending,” it is typically considered registered in Oregon.
- **To ensure effectiveness against RHDV2**
 - Follow the disinfection directions on the label for the virus identified in List O. When using the product, ensure that the surface remains visibly wet for the whole contact time.

Read the label to identify the allowed surfaces and use sites, and whether you must clean the surface before disinfecting it. 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 pestx@oda.state.or.us. If you are unsure whether a specific product is registered in Oregon or on List O, please email pestx@oda.state.or.us. In your email, please include the product name and EPA Reg. No. along with your question. This email is for disinfectant inquiries, not general RHDV2 inquiries.

¹ For example, if EPA Reg. No. 12345-12 is on List O, you can buy EPA Reg. No. 12345-12-2567 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 they believe to be effective against RHDV2; check List O regularly for additions.