

General Facts About Disinfectants

Chemical	Gram + Bacteria	Gram - Bacteria	TB like bacteria	Fungi	Virus	Best pH for activity	Activity in organic material	Common uses *
Chlorhexidene	SA •	SA	SA	SA	Most	Wide range	Good	EPF
Formaldehyde and aldehydes	++	++	++	++	++	Wide range	Good	EPF
Chlorine Chloramines	++	++	SA	++	SA	Acid	Very poor	CE
Iodophors	++	++	SA	++	SA	Acid	Fair to poor	CE
Sodium Hydroxide	++	++	SA	++	++	Alkaline	Good	P
Quaternary ammoniums	++	+	No	SA	SA	Alkaline	Fair	CE
Phenols	++	++	+	SA	SA	Acid	+Good	EPF
Potassium peroxymonosulfate	+	+	+	+	++	Acid	Good	EPF

•SA-some activity

*E-equipment

P-premises

F-footbaths

C-clean equipment

Adapted from Purdue University Cooperative Extension Bulletin PIH80