

Using Alternative Chemical Sanitizers

Chemical sanitizers are used in food establishments to reduce the number of microorganisms on dishes and other food contact surfaces to safe levels.

Typically, chemical sanitizers used in the food industry contain one of three ingredients: chlorine, iodine and quaternary ammonium. The [How to Mix an Approved Sanitizing Solution](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-how-mix-an-approved-sanitizing-solution.pdf) document provides more information about these sanitizers, available at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-how-mix-an-approved-sanitizing-solution.pdf>.

Other products not containing these chemicals may also be effective sanitizers. In order to have an alternative chemical sanitizer approved for use in a food establishment, the chemical must:

- have a DIN (drug identification number)
- be suitable as a no-rinse sanitizer for food contact surfaces.
- be made up and used according to manufacturer's instructions.
- listed in the food establishment's sanitation procedures as per Section 29(2)(b), Food Regulation.

When in use, the chemical sanitizer must be:

- tested using appropriate equipment to measure the concentration of the active ingredient.
- tested to ensure appropriate concentrations at suitable intervals; and
- suitable for use on food contact surfaces.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

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