

Selecting the Right Disinfectant for your Personal Services Business

Selecting the right disinfectant for your personal services business is important. Certain pieces of equipment need stronger disinfectants than others. For example, semi-critical equipment needs a high level disinfectant while non-critical equipment only needs a low or intermediate level disinfectant.

How to select the right disinfectant:

All disinfectants must have a [Drug Identification Number](#) (DIN) or a [Medical Device License](#) (MDL). United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approvals are not approved for use in Canada. Use the chart below to help you select the right type of disinfectant for your business.

Low-level disinfectants

- For disinfecting non-critical surfaces and equipment that only touch client hair or intact skin.
- Drug Identification Number (DIN) on label
- Labelled with the word: *disinfectant*
- Available in most retail stores

Intermediate-level disinfectants

- Used instead of low level disinfectant for hard to kill organisms, like mycobacteria in pedicure foot baths. It often has a shorter contact time than low-level.
- Drug Identification Number (DIN) on label
- Labelled with the words: *disinfectant and TB, Tuberculocidal or Mycobacterium*
- Available from cosmetic, janitorial, dental or medical supply companies

High-level disinfectants

- For disinfecting reusable semi-critical equipment that can touch non-intact skin or mucous membranes.
- Medical Device License (may not be on label)
- Labelled with the words: *sporicidal or high level disinfectant and TB, Tuberculocidal or Mycobacterium*
- Available from cosmetic, janitorial, dental or medical supply companies

Also remember the right disinfection equipment:

- Disposable gloves, aprons, masks and scrubbing tools
- Timer to monitor soaking time
- Containers, with lids, deep enough to completely soak equipment
- Test strips to test high level disinfectant every day
- Space to reprocess (clean, rinse, dry and disinfect) equipment

Tip! Select disinfectants with:

- Easy to follow manufacturers' instructions
- Short contact times

