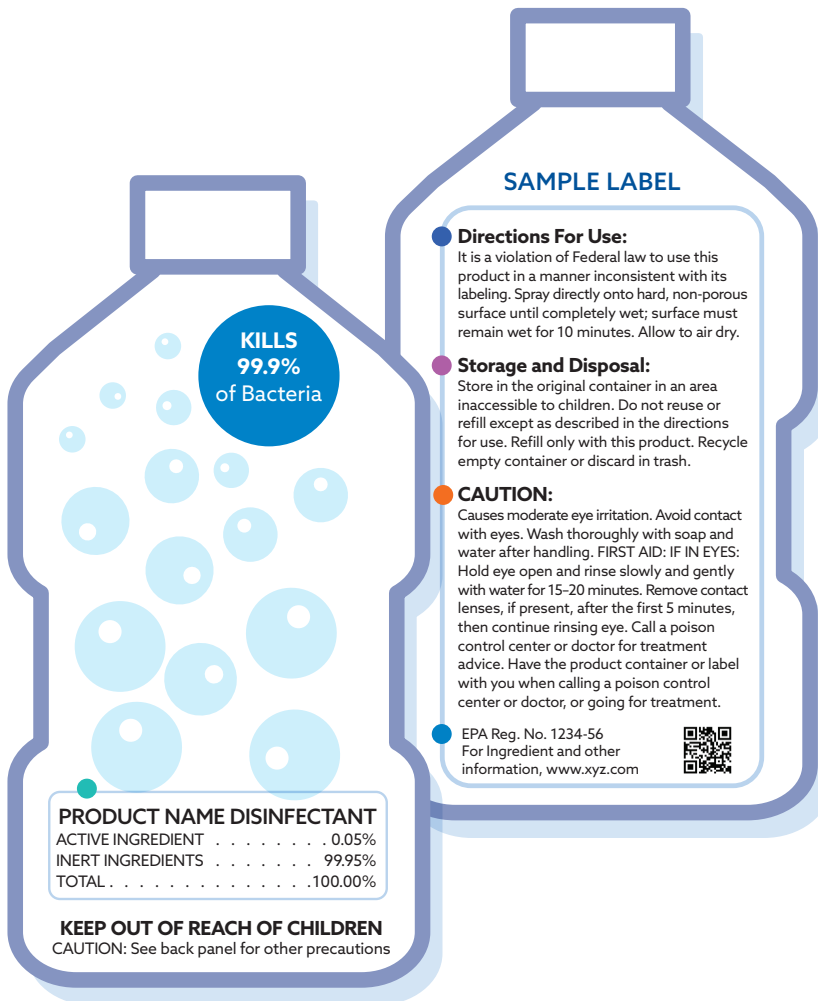


# How to Read a Disinfecting Product Label

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR



## Active Ingredients

Disinfectant labels will list the chemical names of the active ingredients and their amounts on the front label. These are the ingredients that provide the disinfecting action. Active ingredients will change depending on product type and the type of product (e.g. aerosol vs liquid vs solid).

All of the other ingredients in the product are referred to as “Inert Ingredients”. These ingredients provide other functions in the product such as cleaning, stabilizers, and fragrance.

## Directions

Always use products as instructed for safe use and best results. Directions for disinfectants will include:

- Which surfaces or fabrics to use the product on—it’s important to only use disinfecting products on surfaces as described on the label
- How much of the product to use, if it should be diluted, and how to do that
- How long the surface needs to stay wet after using the product—this is called contact time
- If you should rinse or wipe the surface after treatment—including how to handle food contact surfaces or children’s toys after disinfecting
- Which pathogens the product is effective against, including specific bacteria, viruses, and/or fungi

## Storage and Disposal Instructions

Products will have specifications on storage to ensure safety and to help products last. This may include:

- A temperature range that’s safe for the product
- Places not to store the product

Always keep cleaning and disinfecting products out of reach of children.

Disposal instructions will say how to discard leftover product. Then look for the recycling symbol and instructions to determine what of the packaging is recyclable and how.

## Precautions

Caution warnings are dependent on the product’s chemistry and will often be in bold, large print. Most products will say:

- Do not ingest
- Keep out of reach of children
- Do not mix with other cleaning products
- Avoid contact with eyes and skin

Some products may advise to use in a well-ventilated area. Some products may also advise to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) like gloves when using.

First Aid: Follow any first aid instructions on the label. For more information call 1(800)222-1222. Have the product container or product label with you when calling a Poison Control Center, or doctor, or going for treatment.

## Other Information

Usually at the bottom of the back label, you will find other important information:

- EPA Registration number to ensure the product has met all government requirements
- EPA Establishment number to inform where the product was manufactured.
- Company information for more information. This will also now include a reference to a website where more detailed ingredient information (especially on the inert ingredients and fragrance information) can be found.



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