

10.3.3 Characteristics of Some Liquid Disinfectants Table

Liquid Disinfectant Category	Use Dilution	Inactivates				Important Characteristics										Applications						
		Vegetative Bacteria	Lipoviruses	Non-lipid Viruses	Bacterial Spores	Effective shelf life > 1 week <sup>e</sup>	Corrosive	Flammable	Explosion Potential	Residue	Inactivated by organic matter	Compatible with optics <sup>d</sup>	Skin Irritant	Eye Irritant	Respiratory Irritant	Toxic <sup>e</sup>	Work Surfaces	Dirty Classware	Portable Equip. Surface Decon.	Fixed Equip. Surface Decon.	Liquids for Discard	
Quat. Ammon. Cpds	0.1-2.0%	+	+			+												+	+	+	+	
Phenolic Cpds	1.0-5.0%	+	+	b		+	+											+	+	+	+	
Chlorine Cpds	500 ppm <sup>a</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+											+	+	+	+	+
Iodophor	25-1600 ppm <sup>a</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+											+	+	+	+	
Alcohol, Ethyl	70-85%	+	+	b		+	+			+								+	+	+	+	
Alcohol, Isopropyl	70-85%	+	+	b		+	+			+								+	+	+	+	
Formaldehyde	0.2-8.0%	+	+	+	+	+	+											+	+	+	+	
Glutaraldehyde	2%	+	+	+	+	+	+											+	+	+	+	

<sup>a</sup> - Available halogen

<sup>b</sup> - Variable results dependent on virus

<sup>c</sup> - Protected from light and air

<sup>d</sup> - Usually compatible, but consider interferences from residues and effects on associated materials such as mounting adhesives

<sup>e</sup> - By skin or mouth or both - refer to manufacturer's literature

Adapted from the *Laboratory Safety Monograph a supplement to the NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research*

Please note that a contact time of ten minutes is generally used in efficacy testing of disinfectants.