

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DISINFECTANTS

- The types of disinfectants are: alcohols, aldehydes, chlorine compounds, hydrogen peroxide, iodophors, phenolic compounds, and quaternary ammonium compounds.
- Disinfectants are placed in one of three categories: limited, general or broad-spectrum, and hospital.
- Some disinfectants need to be mixed or diluted with water and ratios will vary. Some don't need to be diluted at all.
- Most disinfectants do not clean surfaces, they kill pathogens; however, there are certain disinfectants designed to do both.
- A disinfectant's effectiveness will depend on the surface type (porous or non-porous) and surface contact (dwell) times can differ.
- Some disinfectants, if inhaled, are more toxic than others (e.g., disinfectants with phenol compounds).
- The EPA regulates disinfectants and sterilants used on environmental surfaces, whereas the FDA regulates disinfectants used on critical or semicritical medical devices.

