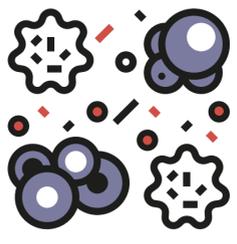
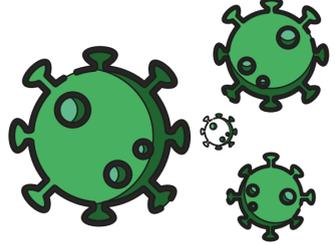


cleaning vs sanitising vs disinfecting vs sterilising

what's the difference?



cleaning/cleaner function: removal of dirt	sanitising/sanitiser function: reduces pathogen levels by at least 99.9%	disinfection/disinfectant function: kills/destroys 99.999+% of pathogens	antiseptis/antiseptic function: kills/destroys 99.999+% of pathogens	sterilising/steriliser function: kills/destroys 100% bacteria/virus
				
<p>Cleaning is the removal of the substances that we usually call "dirt." It may consist of solid or liquid constituents clinging to the surface of the part by simple adhesion. The "dirt" is easily identified from the substrate and is its own separate entity.</p> <p>Cleaning to remove dirt does nothing to change the surface of the part leaving it just as it was but without the dirt. (meaning clean to touch and free of extraneous visible matter and objectionable odour.)</p> <p>Clean low-risk inanimate (non-living) surfaces, such as floors, windows, etc., where the likelihood of pathogen transfer from the surface is low.</p> <p>Clean high-risk animate surfaces such as hands and body best with soap and water for 20 seconds, to reduce the possibility of pathogen transfer.</p> <p>Cleaning ingredients: soap, detergents (sodium dodecyl sulfate, sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate, sodium laureth sulfate, nonylphenol ethoxylate), etc</p> <p>Note: Always check ingredients on the packaging label</p>	<p>Sanitizing is a process of reducing (not killing/destroying), the occurrence and growth of bacteria, viruses and fungi. Sanitizing is better than cleaning alone but the reduction of pathogen populations on environmental surfaces is exponentially better when you disinfect. Since sanitizing does not make 100% anti-viral claims, sanitizing offers less confidence of destroying the flu or other viruses commonly found on surfaces.</p> <p>A typical sanitizer is only required to reduce from Log 6 down to Log 3. If we start with 1,000,000 (1 million) organisms on a surface then a sanitiser must reduce the number of organisms down to 1,000 or 99.9% reduction.</p> <p>Sanitise high-risk animate surfaces such as hands and arms.</p> <p>Sanitise inanimate surfaces, such as personal equipment like computer keyboards, tablets, mobile & fixed phone devices, light switches, etc., where the likelihood of pathogen transfer from the surface is high.</p> <p>Sanitising ingredients: alcohols - not less than 70% (ethanol & isopropanol), diluted benzalkonium chloride, diluted didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride/carbonate, diluted didecyl dimethyl ammonium ascorbate: [biodx: vitrodx[®], indusdx[®]], etc...</p> <p>Note: Always check ingredients and product registration details on the packaging label</p>	<p>Disinfection is the process of reducing (killing/destroying/ inactivating) harmful and objectionable bacteria, viruses and other pathogenic microorganisms by various agents such as chemicals (biocides, virucides), heat, ultraviolet light, ultrasonic waves, or radiation.</p> <p>It includes ensuring a food contact surface or utensil does not contain microorganisms at a level that would allow the transmission of infectious disease or compromise food safety.</p> <p>The minimum level of effectiveness in a modern-day disinfectant is a kill rate of Log 5. If we start with 1,000,000 (1 million) organisms on a surface then a disinfectant must kill/ destroy/ inactivate 99.999+ percent of them; 10 left.</p> <p>Biocides A Biocidal product is any substance or mixture with one or more active substances, intended for destroying or rendering harmless, any harmful organisms/ pathogens by means other than mere physical or mechanical action.</p> <p>Virucides A virucidal product is any substance or mixture with one or more active substances, intended for destroying or irreversibly inactivating viruses in animate or inanimate environments.</p> <p>Disinfect high-risk inanimate surfaces, such as food preparation surfaces and all surfaces in a healthcare facility where the likelihood of pathogen transfer from the surface is high.</p> <p>Disinfect high-traffic inanimate surfaces, such as floors, walls, windows, counter and desk tops, tables, door & window handles, light switches, ablution facilities, personal electronic & other frequently handled equipment, etc., where the likelihood of pathogen transfer from the surface is high.</p> <p>Disinfection Ingredients: sodium hypochlorite (bleaches), hydrogen peroxide, benzalkonium chloride, didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride/carbonate, didecyl dimethyl ammonium ascorbate: [biodx: vitrodx[®], microdx[®], indusdx[®], agridx[®]], etc...</p> <p>Note: Always check ingredients and product registration details on the packaging label</p>	<p>Antiseptics are antimicrobial substances that are applied to living tissue/skin to reduce the possibility of infection, sepsis, or putrefaction. Antiseptics are generally distinguished from disinfectants, which destroy pathogens found on inanimate objects.</p> <p>Antibacterials include antiseptics that have the proven ability to act against bacteria. Microbicides which destroy virus particles are called virucides or antivirals. Antifungals, also known as an antimycotics, are pharmaceutical fungicides used to treat and prevent mycosis (fungal infection).</p> <p>Both antiseptics and disinfectants contain chemical agents that are sometimes called biocides. Antiseptics usually contain lower concentrations of biocides than disinfectants do.</p> <p>The minimum level of effectiveness in a modern-day antiseptic is a kill rate of Log 5. If we start with 1,000,000 (1 million) organisms on a surface then an antiseptic must kill/ destroy/ inactivate 99.999 percent of them; 10 left.</p> <p>Antiseptic Ingredients: alcohol 70%, (ethyl & isopropyl), chlorhexidine gluconate & acetate), proflavine hemisulphate, gentian violet, chloroxylenol, chlorocresol, hydroxyquinoline sulphate, potassium hydroxyquinoline sulphate, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride/carbonate, didecyl dimethyl ammonium ascorbate: [biodx: vitrodx[®]], etc...</p> <p>Note: Always check ingredients and product registration details on the packaging label</p>	<p>Sterilization refers to any process that eliminates, removes, kills, or deactivates all forms of life (in particular referring to microorganisms such as fungi, bacteria, viruses, spores, unicellular eukaryotic organisms such as Plasmodium, etc.</p> <p>An application would typically be hospital operating theatre environments.</p> <p>The minimum level of effectiveness in a modern-day steriliser is 100 percent kill of an organism. If we start with 1,000,000 (1 million) organisms on a surface then a steriliser must kill/ destroy/ inactivate 100 percent of them; zero left.</p> <p>Sterilise high-risk inanimate surfaces such as operating theatres and medical equipment in a healthcare facility where the likelihood of pathogen transfer from the surface is extremely high.</p> <p>Sterilising Ingredients: glutaraldehyde, benzalkonium chloride 5%, didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, formaldehyde 6%, etc...</p> <p>Note: Always check ingredients and product registration details on the packaging label</p>