

# Selecting Registered Disinfectants for Personal Service Facilities

## BEFORE YOU PURCHASE DISINFECTANTS

Purchasing the right disinfectants can be confusing. Disinfectants come in varying levels and are applied according to the type of surface or instrument being used.

An Environmental Health Officer / Public Health Inspector (EHO/PHI) may restrict the use of disinfectants that do not comply with the Personal Services Regulation and associated Standards. To prevent this, it is always a good idea to call your EHO/PHI to discuss what disinfectants are required for your facility's surfaces and instruments.

The best practice is to use registered disinfectants. **All registered disinfectants will have a Drug Identification Number (DIN).** Foreign approvals such as EPA and FDA are not transferable to Canada and are not approved for use.

### Low-level disinfectants

Low-level disinfectants will have a DIN and state the word “**disinfectant**” on the label. Low-level disinfectants are suitable for surfaces and equipment that only come into contact with client's intact skin. This level of disinfectant is easy to find in most retail stores.

### Intermediate level disinfectants

Intermediate-level disinfectants will have a DIN, state the word “disinfectant” AND will also have a “TB”, “**Tuberculocidal**” or “Mycobacterium” claim on the label. These disinfectants are required for instruments that may come into contact with non-intact skin and those that are potentially contaminated with blood or body fluid. These disinfectants are harder to find but are readily available from cosmetic, janitorial, dental or medical supply companies.

## High-level disinfectants

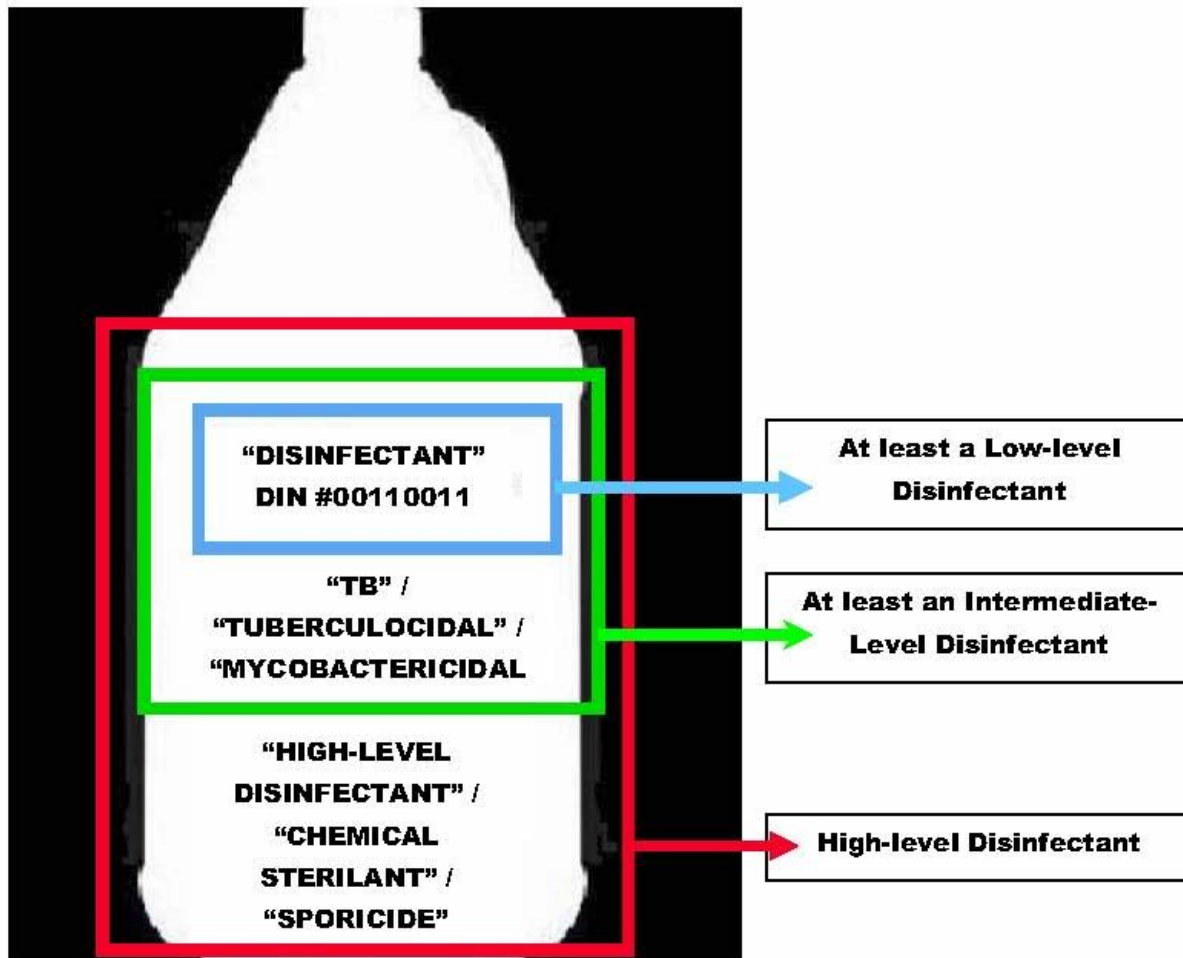
High-level disinfectants will also have a DIN and carry a “TB”, “Tuberculocidal” or “Mycobacterium” claim but are unique in that they carry a **“SPORICIDAL”** claim on the label. These disinfectants will often indicate on their label that they are a high-level disinfectant or a chemical sterilant. While stronger is not always better, high-level disinfectants can take the place of intermediate-level disinfectants in your studio for instruments that may come into contact with non-intact skin and those that are potentially contaminated with blood or body fluid.

## IMPORTANCE OF CLEANING

Instruments and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned before disinfection. Cleaning must always come first.

## CHOOSING DISINFECTANTS: SUMMARY TABLE

	Information and claims on the Label			
Disinfectant Strength	Drug Identification Number (DIN)	Disinfectant	Tuberculocidal, TB, or Mycobacterium	Sporicidal
Low Level	X	X	-	-
Intermediate Level	X	X	X	-
High Level	X	X	X	X



## FACILITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Do you soak instruments in disinfectant? If so, do you have appropriate containers?
- Are disposable gloves and appropriate scrubbing tools available for cleaning?
- Do you have gloves, aprons, masks and other personal protective equipment?
- Is there adequate counter space at your sink to allow for cleaning, rinsing, drying and disinfection?

For

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