Grey Bruce Public Health | Grey Bruce IPAC Hub

Summary Sheet: Environmental Cleaning- Product Choice

Efficacy of the Disinfectant

- Does the product inactivate all of the pathogens it needs to?
- Example: Norovirus is resistant to some disinfectants

Ease of Use

- What is the contact time for this product?
- Is this product ready-to-use or do I have to prepare it? What is the concentration and do I have the appropriate test strips?
- Is this product a cleaning agent, disinfectant, or combined product?
- What are the manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU)?
- Considerations:
  1. Shorter contact times are preferred
  2. Ready-to-use products are preferred over manual dilution
  3. Confirm disinfectants have a DIN
  4. Always follow MIFU

Compatability with Items and Surfaces

- Will this product damage the surface or equipment I am using it on?
- Example: bleach products can be corrosive to metals at high concentrations

Safe for Use

- What are the occupational health considerations for staff?
- What are the storage requirements for this product?
- Is this product safe for food contact surfaces?
- Example: QUATs may cause or worsen respiratory and skin irritation
- Example: alcohol products are flammable
- Example: phenolics not recommended for use on food surfaces

Cost and Environmental Impact

- Are these products biodegradable and safe for the environment?
- Example: hydrogen peroxide products are non-toxic and safe for the environment

Reference: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for environmental cleaning for prevention and control of infections in all health care settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018.