

# Disinfectants in Schools

~a conversation~

Disinfectants make things cleaner and healthier. What's the big deal? They aren't harmful.

Are you sure? Did you know disinfectants are pesticides regulated by the EPA? They can harm people if they spill, splash, or are improperly mixed.

OK, so what IS a disinfectant?

Great question! A disinfectant is a pesticide used to destroy fungi, bacteria, and some viruses found on non-living surfaces.



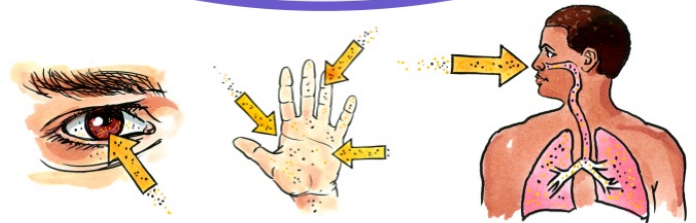
## Disinfectant Examples

- Pine Oil
- Some surface wipes
- Germ-killing sprays
- Bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite)



When not used properly, disinfectants can damage the eyes, skin, and lungs. Children can be particularly sensitive to the chemicals in disinfectant products.

Is there anything I should know about using disinfectants safely?



## DOs

- ✓ Read the label and follow the directions every time you use a product, even if familiar with it.
- ✓ Wash your hands right after using disinfectants.
- ✓ Point containers away when opening, pouring, or pulling wipes from canisters.
- ✓ Note the amount of time a surface must remain wet in order for the product to work.

## DON'Ts

- ✗ Never let young children use or have access to disinfectant products.
- ✗ Never put disinfectants in food or drink containers. Store in original containers and clearly label anything that contains a pesticide.
- ✗ Never mix disinfectants with other cleaning products. Mixing bleach and ammonia will produce a toxic gas.

Got it! Where can I get more information?

**npic**  
NATIONAL PESTICIDE INFORMATION CENTER  
1.800.858.7378

Call NPIC for general questions about pesticides, including the potential risk to humans, pets, or the environment.

**POISON Help**  
1-800-222-1222

Call poison control if someone breathes in, swallows, or gets pesticide in the eyes or on the skin.

