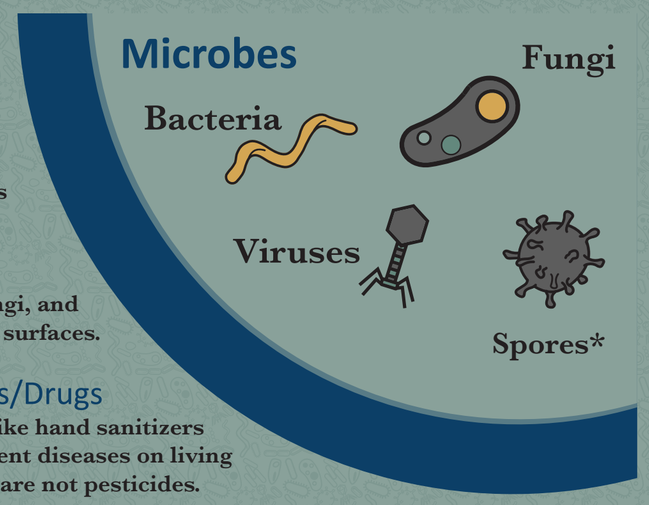
Using DISINFECTING WIPES at home & school

Types of Antimicrobials

Sanitizers
Reduce bacterial numbers on surfaces to a safe level.

Disinfectants
Kill bacteria, fungi, and some viruses on surfaces.

Antiseptics/Drugs
Antiseptics like hand sanitizers treat or prevent diseases on living things. They are not pesticides.



*Most wipes do not kill spores

What are they?

- Antimicrobials are intended to kill or slow the growth of microbes
- Disinfectant wipes are disposable for hard surfaces like counters and tables
- Surface cleaners like wipes are not intended for use on skin
- Disinfectant wipes may LOOK similar to hand wipes. Read the label! Look for phrases like "disinfecting", "antibacterial", or "kills germs, viruses, and bacteria". When in doubt, call NPIC! **800-858-7378**

Where can they be used?

- Specific locations listed only on the label
- Use sites and **dwell time** vary by location and purpose

Household surfaces

Medical

Public Health

What is dwell time?

- The contact time (seconds or minutes) the product needs to stay on a surface to kill microbes
- The surface should be visibly wet for the entire dwell time
- Time may change based on the microbe and purpose (sanitize vs. disinfect)

Using in schools and daycares

- Only adults should use cleaning wipes – children should NOT use wipes
- Keep out of reach of children
- Follow the dwell time listed on the label
- Leave wipes in the original container
- Use the right product for each situation
- Parents: ask how children are involved in classroom cleaning

These wipes are NOT for:

Food contact

Produce

Hand wipes

Baby wipes

How do I minimize risk?

- Always follow the label, including use sites and dwell times
- Never mix antimicrobial or cleaning products
- You can wear gloves if you prefer, always check the label first
- Wash hands after use
- Avoid touching wet surfaces after use
- Follow first aid instructions
- Open windows or use fans
- Store wipes out of reach of children
- Removing dirt and food from surfaces before helps wipes work
- Misuse or overuse of wipes can lead to antimicrobial resistance

What is antimicrobial resistance?

If similar products are used repeatedly, they may not be as effective over time. This resistance can occur naturally, but overuse or misuse of antimicrobial products increases the chances. Follow the label and dwell time to reduce the risk of resistance.

Where can I get more information?

npic
NATIONAL PESTICIDE INFORMATION CENTER
npic.orst.edu
npic@ace.orst.edu
800.858.7378

Sources

Antimicrobials Topic Fact Sheet - NPIC
Daycare and School Poison Safety – NPIC and AAPCC