

DISINFECTION CHART

| Level of Disinfection | Tools to Use on | Examples of Tools | Product Options | Contact Time Provided or Follow Manufacturer's Instructions (FMI) |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| STERILIZATION Results in the destruction of all forms of microbial life including bacteria, viruses, spores, and fungi. | Critical items: Items that penetrate the skin and come in contact with blood/body fluid. Items that hold sterile instruments. | Re-usable parts of micro pigmentation pen/device Needle tubes/grips/forceps Tattoo needle bars Piercing clamps Jewelry opening/closing pliers Receiving tubes Straight razors | Dry heat sterilizer Autoclave | FMI |
| HIGH LEVEL Kills all microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, and viruses) Does not kill bacterial spores. | Semi-critical items: Items that touches non-intact skin and mucous membranes but does not penetrate them. | Electrolysis needle/probe holder Comedone extractors | 1:10 chlorine bleach solution* 5,000 parts per million ¼ c (62 ml) chlorine + 2¼ c (562 ml) water <i>or</i> 1 c (250 ml) + 9 c (2250 ml) water | 10 minutes |
| | | | >=6% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action formulation) | 20 - 30 minutes |
| | | | 2% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action formulation) | 5 - 8 minutes |
| | | | 0.55% ortho-phthalaldehyde (OPA) | 10 minutes |
| INTERMEDIATE LEVEL Kills most bacteria, fungi, viruses and mycobacteria (tuberculocidal). | Non-critical items: Items that contact intact skin or mucous membranes and may accidentally penetrate them. | Tweezers Metal/glass nail files Credo blade holder Nippers, clippers, metal/plastic cuticle pushers Crochet hooks used for highlights Ear piercing guns Footbaths | 1:50 chlorine bleach solution* 1,000 parts per million 4 tsp (200 ml) chlorine + 4 c (1000 ml) water <i>or</i> 7 tbsp (100 ml) chlorine + 20 c (5000 ml) water | 10 minutes |
| | | | 70 - 90% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol Note: Alcohol above 90% is not recommended. | 10 minutes |
| | | | 0.5% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action formulation) with efficacy claims against tuberculosis (TB) or mycobacteria | 3 - 5 minutes |
| LOW LEVEL Kills some viruses, bacteria, and fungi but not mycobacteria or spores. | Non-critical items: Equipment and instruments or items that do not directly contact the client, or contact only hair or intact skin. | Combs, brushes Hair scissors Hair clippers Make-up brushes Service trays Chairs Floor/walls Hairdressing stations | 1:500 chlorine bleach solution* 100 ppm ¼ tsp (1 ml) chlorine + 2 c (500 ml) water <i>or</i> 1 tsp (5 ml) chlorine + 10 c (2 ½ L) water | 10 minutes |
| | | | 3% hydrogen peroxide | 10 minutes |
| | | | Quaternary ammonium | 10 minutes |
| | | | 0.5% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action formulation) | FMI |
| | | | Phenols | FMI |

*Based on regular household bleach solution of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution.

Reference: Public Health Ontario (2019). Guide to Infection Prevention and control in Personal Service Settings, 3rd edition.

Please note: This chart is not intended to be inclusive of all approved high, intermediate, or low-level disinfectants.