

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).	Semi-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.