

# DISINFECTION CHART

Level of Disinfection	Tools to Use on	Examples of Tools	Product Options	Contact Time Provided or Follow Manufacturer's Instructions (FMI)
<b>STERILIZATION</b> Results in the destruction of all forms of microbial life including bacteria, viruses, spores, and fungi.	<b>Critical items:</b> 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
<b>HIGH LEVEL</b> Kills all microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, and viruses) Does not kill bacterial spores.	<b>Semi-critical items:</b> 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
<b>INTERMEDIATE LEVEL</b> Kills most bacteria, fungi, viruses and mycobacteria (tuberculocidal).	<b>Non-critical items:</b> 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
<b>LOW LEVEL</b> Kills some viruses, bacteria, and fungi but not mycobacteria or spores.	<b>Non-critical items:</b> 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.