

# Using DISINFECTING WIPES

## 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.

## Microbes

**Bacteria**

**Viruses**

**Fungi**

**Spores\***

## at home & school

### 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)



### 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 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

\*Most wipes do not kill spores



### Use 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

### 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.



### 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**



### Where can I get more information?

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

### Sources

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

