

Common myths about disinfection

There are 10 common myths and misconceptions about controlling germs:

- **They are easily killed with cleaning agent.** Simply not true. Some germs are stubborn and require the use of an effective disinfecting agent to kill them.
- **Chlorine bleach is the best way to kill them.** In fact, it has several drawbacks and is not the best way to kill germs when in the presence of soil, though it is an effective disinfectant.
- **Sanitizers and disinfectants are the same thing.** In fact, sanitizers kill only some germs while disinfectants kill 100 percent of them.
- **A strong odour from a disinfectant means it's powerful.** In fact, no efficacy correlation can be drawn.
- **Doubling the strength of the disinfectant will double its effectiveness.** In reality, a disinfectant is designed to be effective at the dilution ratio listed on the label. It is a waste of product to use more, which also may cause sticky buildups on surfaces.
- **The contact time requirement for disinfectants is not necessary to follow.** In fact, on contaminated surfaces, they should be followed strictly.
- **Mixing general purpose cleaners with disinfectants will improve cleaning and disinfecting.** It's not true, and in fact will reduce the effectiveness of both the cleaner and the disinfectant.
- **Strong acid toilet bowl cleaners should be used everyday to prevent germs.** In fact, no. Frequent use of strong acid cleaners may only harm restroom surfaces and indicates poor cleaning habits.
- **No customer complaints mean a restroom is a clean, healthy environment.** In fact, customers may be tired of complaining or figure that someone else is complaining for them.
- **Applying floor finishes to restroom floors protects them from germs.** Simply not true. Floor finishes are antimicrobial and provide no natural resistance to germs.

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