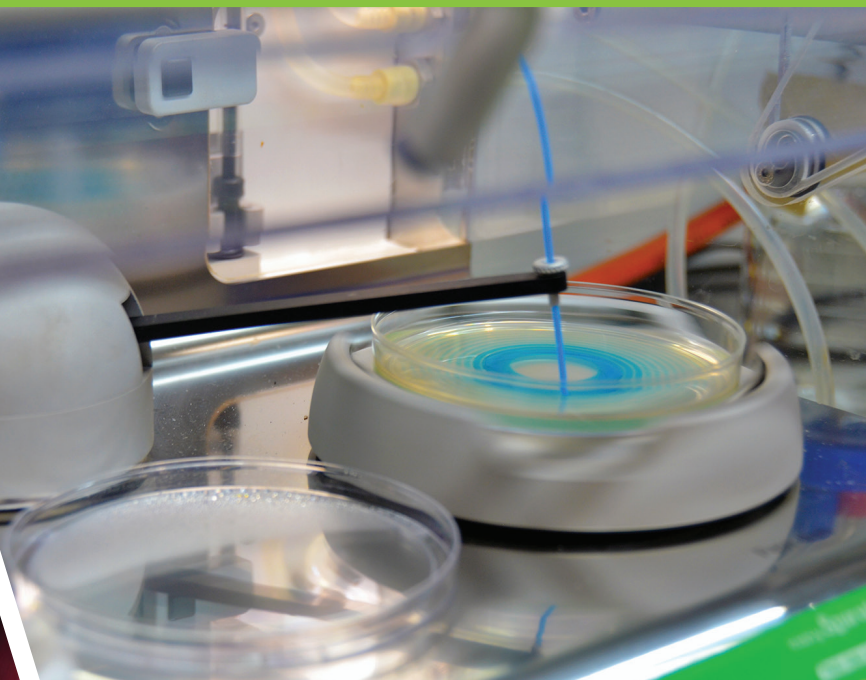




Test Today, Improve Tomorrow

8 THINGS TO FOCUS ON WHEN YOU BUY A CLEANING DISINFECTANT OR SANITIZER



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Introduction

Selecting a suitable disinfectant or sanitizer can be complicated. Therefore, to make the right decision, you must understand firstly why proper cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting is so extremely important.

You must understand the difference between cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting and which of these options best suit the needs in your facility.

It is important to understand:

- Which pathogens you are aiming to control.
- What kind of cleaning application you need.

In this E-Book, we would like to guide you through some very important questions you should answer in the selection process.





1. Is there a MSDS sheet available?

A material safety data sheet (MSDS) is a technical document that provides detailed and comprehensive information about a controlled product. A MSDS must provide the following content and must be revised every 3 years:

- Hazardous Ingredients
- Physical Data
- Toxicology Properties
- Preparation Information
- Reactivity Data
- Product Information
- Fire and Explosion Hazard
- Preventative Measures
- First Aid Measures

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

MSDS lists hazardous ingredients of a product, its physical and chemical characteristics (e.g. flammability, explosive properties), its effect on human health.

2. Is the product packaging sufficient?

Packaging for chemical compounds has always been a challenging task.

When packaging a certain chemical compound, the number of options available are limited.

Chemical Packaging is important for:

HEALTH HAZARDS

- Physical protection of the product
- Protects product integrity

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

- Barrier protection of the product
- Shows the information of the product

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

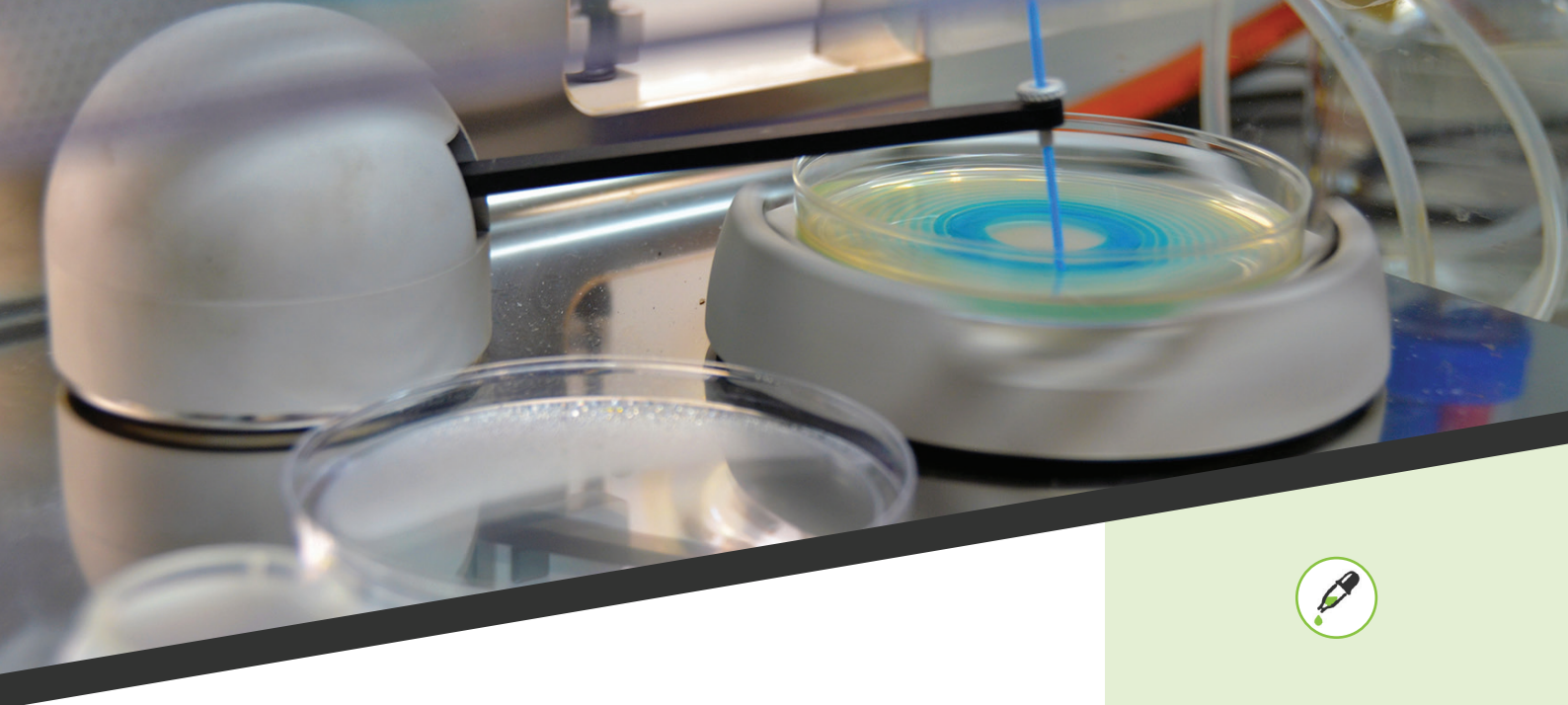
- Shows the quality of product
- Ensure product spills are prevented



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

These chemicals are often critical health hazards. Most of these chemicals are extremely flammable or they support combustion.





3. Is the label effective?

Unlike instructions on a box of mac and cheese, instructions on a disinfectant label are the law, not suggestions.

Disinfectant labels must include:

- Manufacturer's and product name
- Keep Out of Reach of Children statement
- Hazards related to human and animals when using the product
- Ingredient statement
- First aid instructions
- Precautionary statement
- Signal words
- Directions for use information
- Storage and disposal



4. Does the product display an expiry date?

Disinfectants are required by law to have an expiry date. Disinfectant products do not expire because of an increase in microorganism growth, rather, the active ingredients of the disinfectant begins to lose potency or degrade over time.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Understanding the information on a disinfectant product label is essential for effective microorganism inactivation and removal, as well as ensuring safety when using the product.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The disinfectant may look and smell identical compared to these characteristics on the purchase date, but the efficacy of the product cannot be guaranteed.



5. Does the manufacturer comply with governing standards?

All disinfectants sold in the Republic of South Africa need to comply to certain requirements of this compulsory specifications.

In addition some industries require products to comply with South African National Standards or equivalent to ensure these are suitable for the industry.



6. NRCS approved?

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications is an entity of the department of Trade and Industry, established to administer compulsory specifications and other technical regulations with the view to protect human health, safety, the environment and ensure fair trade in accordance with government policies and guidelines.

All disinfectants must be registered with the NRCS and display their unique NRCS registration number on the label of the product.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Standards ensure that consumers are protected from hazards to their health and safety. Standards promote and protect economic interests of consumers. Standards ensure that consumers have easier access to and greater choice in goods and services.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The NRCS ensures the technical regulations that require conformity of a product to health, safety or environmental protection requirements of a standard.



7. Is the product suitable for your needs?

Disinfectants used in the food industry play a major role in health and hygiene. Different food industries require different cleaning products and procedures. Any chemicals used in food establishments to clean and disinfect food contact surfaces and equipment must be approved as food safe.



8. Ensure disinfectant efficacy testing is done by an accredited laboratory

Disinfectant efficacy studies are performed to demonstrate the efficacy of disinfecting agents used on surfaces in manufacturing areas. This means they have been tested for effectiveness in inactivation of microorganisms, such as bacteria, fungi (yeast and moulds) bacterial spores, viruses and mycoplasma. Disinfectant studies can support cleaning studies by showing that application of the disinfectant reduces or eliminates microorganisms.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The cleaning process in the food production industry is a critical step within food production since it is crucial to maintain and guarantee food safety.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

To comply with legal requirements, these tests are mandatory. Disinfectant efficacy studies confirm that disinfecting agents used are active against organisms isolated during the environmental monitoring program of a facility. Ensure the lab that perform the tests is accredited for these methods and target organisms.



Conclusion

Anyone working in an environment where hygiene is an essential part of everyday life knows about the efforts to avoid bacterial contamination and ensure a clean end product. Cleaning efficiency is about being able to clean in the most efficient way in the shortest time.

If you need help with deciding on which cleaning disinfectant or sanitizer will be suitable for your needs please contact us at marketing@smtlabs.co.za

SMT LABS CAN ASSIST WITH THE FOLLOWING CLEANING EFFICACY STUDIES

| EN1276: Chemical Efficacy (Bacteria) | EN13697: Chemical Efficacy on Non-Porous Surfaces (Bacteria, Yeast and Fungi) | EN1650: Chemical Efficacy (Yeast and Fungi) |
|--|--|--|
| <p>This method tests: The efficacy of a chemical against bacteria</p> <p>Compulsory Organisms (fixed package) that must be tested to deem a chemical efficient for cleaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Escherichia coli</i>, - <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> - <i>Enterococcus hirae</i> - <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> <p>Optional Organisms, that is industry specific, that can be added to the test list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> - <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> - <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 | <p>This method tests: The efficacy of a chemical against bacteria, yeast and mould on non-porous surfaces</p> <p>Compulsory Organisms (fixed package) that must be tested to deem a chemical efficient for cleaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Escherichia coli</i> - <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> - <i>Enterococcus hirae</i> - <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> - <i>Aspergillus brasiliensis</i> - <i>Candida albicans</i> <p>Optional Organisms, that is industry specific, that can be added to the test list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> - <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> - <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 <p>Additional surfaces can be tested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stainless Steel - Accredited - - Others - Not Accredited | <p>This method tests: The efficacy of a chemical against yeast and mould</p> <p>Compulsory Organisms (fixed package) that must be tested to deem a chemical efficient for cleaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Aspergillus brasiliensis</i> - <i>Candida albicans</i> |

Why choose us?

We know the pressures that the food industry faces, therefore we offer the fastest service, designed to get your test results as quickly as possible to improve your processes and the quality of your products.

We will provide you with results you can TRUST, to help you make the RIGHT decisions to provide safe, quality products to your consumers.



CONTACT US TODAY

to find out how we can help you!



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AVAILABILITY
for your queries