



Cleaning Innovations That Matter.

Myths Debunked

Myth #1

Hospital Grade disinfectants require a tuberculosis (TB) Claim.

False: A "Hospital Grade" Disinfectant only requires 2 organisms to be tested: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Tuberculocidal disinfectants are not used to control the spread of TB. Instead the TB claim is only used as an indicator of strength. TB is transmitted only by the airborne route, meaning that the only way this disease is spread is by infected people coughing and sneezing tiny infected droplets into the air and others breathing those droplets into their lungs. Therefore, surface cleaners and disinfectants will have no impact on the spread of this pathogen.

Myth #2

Bleach is the ultimate disinfectant.

False: In order for bleach to function properly as a disinfectant or sanitizer, the surface MUST be pre-cleaned prior to the application of bleach. Disinfecting and sanitizing with bleach is a two-step process. Bleach's shelf life is unstable and depends on the age and storage conditions. The amount of active chlorine within the bleach will vary per product. Sodium hypochlorite, a.k.a. bleach, will break down into salt and water which is why it is very important to never store bleach in warm areas. A fresh solution of bleach must be made prior to disinfection or sanitation. The water ions or hardness and soil contaminants from a dirty container can adversely affect available chlorine ppms.

Myth #3

Disinfectants are promoting antibiotic resistance in microorganisms.

False: The mode of action for a disinfectant is different than the mode of action of an antibiotic. This applies to antibiotic resistant bacteria (think MRSA or CRE). Antibiotic resistant bacteria have developed a resistance to a type of antibiotic. The ability of bacteria to be resistant to an antibiotic has no direct indication of the efficacy of a disinfectant for those same bacteria.

Myth #4

The more chemical, the better.

False: Cleaning and disinfecting products are formulated for use in specific amounts and concentrations. When mixing or diluting products, it is important to closely follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid potentially hazardous situations.