

# 90-Day Disinfection: Dispelling Myths



False claims of products certified to kill coronavirus on surfaces for 90 days have recently circulated the web and television advertising. As of press time, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not approved or certified the efficacy of any long-lasting disinfectants. In fact, the EPA states that these claims may pose significant risk to consumers. (Source, EPA Compliance Advisory: What You Need to Know Regarding Products Making Claims to Kill the Coronavirus Causing COVID-19)

Following EPA pushback against their claims, some companies have removed any promise of 90-day disinfection from their marketing, rebranding with claims of “long-lasting” disinfection or similar descriptions. Whether these companies state 90-day disinfection or long-lasting disinfection, harm caused by improper product use may be significant, including failure to disinfect and physical harm to employees. (See, <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/compliance-advisory-what-you-need-know-regarding-products-making-claims-kill-coronavirus>)

As a byproduct of these long-term disinfection claims, employees may also be lulled into a false sense of security and fail to correctly disinfect. Believing that they are protected, office staff may also stop taking necessary preventative measures established by the CDC including hand sanitizing, handwashing, mask wearing and social distancing. The office also might fail to complete proper daily disinfection following CDC Guidelines. One infected person in an office space has the potential to infect the entire building. Daily cleaning and disinfection are important to maintaining a healthy work environment. (See, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>)

## 90-Day Disinfection... *Cont'd*

The EPA states that untested and uncertified products may have unknown and harmful health effects. (See *above*, EPA Compliance Advisory) According to CDC Guidelines for cleaning commercial buildings, cleaning and disinfecting multiple times daily with EPA registered disinfectants will greatly reduce the spread of germs. Only products on the EPA's N-List meet the criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. (See, <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>) Surface disinfectants only kill viruses upon use. Previously applied disinfectants will not protect against new viral exposure. Daily disinfection of high touchpoint areas such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, light switches, phones and counter tops is still essential to maintaining a safe office environment. (See, <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/there-anything-i-can-do-make-surfaces-resistant-sars-cov-2> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>)

We can reduce and prevent the spread of disease, including COVID-19, by following CDC Guidelines using EPA Certified products correctly. Employees must feel confident in the safety of their office environment to achieve maximum productivity as they return to the workplace. Following CDC Guidelines, regular daily cleaning should be supplemented with disinfection to ensure building occupants are safe.

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