COASTWIDE connection

YOUR MONTHLY COASTWIDE NEWSLETTER

This monthly e-newsletter features the latest Coastwide Laboratories news and events, highlighted products and facility solutions for our customers.

Coastwide Solutions:

Cleaning vs. Disinfecting: Just the Facts

Cleaning vs. Disinfecting: What’s the Difference?
Proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures go hand in hand to provide a clean and healthy environment. Cleaning is the process of removing unwanted substances from the environment. Disinfecting is the process of killing and destroying unwanted germs (pathogenic microorganisms).

Disinfectants require the removal of soils from a surface before they are effective. Disinfectant-cleaners combine the cleaner and disinfectant into a “one step” process. A disinfectant-cleaner is diluted and then used to remove soils and kill germs—all in one application. One step disinfectant-cleaners save labor and money. Simply stated, disinfectants “disinfect” and disinfectant-cleaners “disinfect and clean.” If you are uncertain if your product is a disinfectant or disinfectant-cleaner, read the product label carefully. If the label does not mention “cleans and disinfects,” then it’s probably a disinfectant or sanitizer and NOT a one-step disinfectant-cleaner.

Understanding Disinfectants
In the United States, disinfectants and cleaners must be reviewed and registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before they can be offered for sale. The EPA assigns a registration number for each product which must be clearly displayed on every container. The EPA pre-approves all “efficacy test methods” used to measure the effectiveness of disinfectants against specific microorganisms.

Types of Disinfectants
Chlorine Bleach
An excellent disinfectant, but poor cleaner. This type of disinfectant is extremely effective against many types of microorganisms including bacteria, fungi and viruses. However, many facilities do not use bleach products because they can damage floor finishes, react with other chemicals to create toxic gases, lose their strength rapidly, and are expensive to use.

Phenolics, Iodines and Pine Oils
Phenolic disinfectant cleaners are not as corrosive as bleach, but aggressive enough to damage floor finishes. Phenolic disinfectants are still the preferred product in a few healthcare facilities where gross contamination of blood and bodily fluids exist. Iodines and iodophor compounds can be very effective disinfectants, but they can stain surfaces and corrode metals. Distilled pine oil can be formulated as a disinfectant but is not water-soluble. High levels are required to kill many pathogens, and it’s seldom used alone to disinfect.

Hydrogen Peroxide
Used in hospitals to disinfect surfaces as a solution alone, or in combination with other chemicals as a high level disinfectant. It is often mixed with colloidal silver, and frequently preferred because it causes fewer allergic reactions than alternative disinfectants.

Quats: The Best Choice for Disinfecting
Quats (Quaternary Ammonium Chlorides) offer a safe and effective one-step cleaning and disinfecting process. They contain the active ingredient benzalkonium chloride. These compounds can be formulated with a variety of ingredients to provide a safe and effective neutral pH, disinfectant-cleaner without damaging floor finishes or sensitive floor surfaces. In addition, quats are economical and extremely effective odor control agents when used according to directions. Quats are effective destroying a broad spectrum of harmful microorganisms while cleaning the surfaces which they reside—all in one simple step.

Disinfectants: Knowledge is Power
Maintaining a clean and healthy facility depends upon using effective cleaning and disinfecting products and techniques. Click here for the ten questions to ask before selecting the best disinfectant-cleaners. Talk to your Coastwide Consultant to review your disinfection product options and cleaning procedures to find the best solution for your needs.

Excerpt from Disinfecting the Indoor Environment by Roger McFadden, Vice President, Senior Scientist at Staples
Product Spotlight:

Cold Weather Essentials

Keep Your Footing With ICEtrekkers®

Navigating icy sidewalks and parking lots can be a difficult challenge for your facility staff. Maintain a safer work environment with ICEtrekkers®. ICEtrekkers are personal traction devices based on the same principles used for vehicle traction: chains, studs and cables.

Think of ICEtrekkers Chains as tire chains for your feet, perfect for all snow conditions, including packed and crusty surfaces. The durable links are individually TIG welded and made from case hardened steel. The unique ladder pattern under the ball of the foot, combined with the triangular pattern on the heel provides stable footing and is comfortable for extended wear. The heavy sling is flexible and stays securely on footwear even in deep snow. ICEtrekkers Chains are a great value, offering durable traction at an affordable price.

Diamond Grips provide aggressive traction for all winter walking conditions. They are very effective when transitioning through gravel, rock and mud from icy surfaces. Made of case hardened steel alloy, the patented diamond beads have hundreds of biting edges that grip in all directions. They are easy to put on and take off, yet fit snugly and stay on without the need for additional straps. Diamond Grips are also self-cleaning, so there is no snow or ice build-up. There is no other traction footwear product like it!

Turn your shoes into a Zamboni, with ICEtrekkers Spikes. Excellent for navigating icy streets, parking lots and driveways, ICEtrekkers Spikes can be used with a variety of footwear and fit especially well over dress shoes. They are easy to put on and take off, and stay on footwear without the need for buckles or straps. ICEtrekkers Spikes have 6-point contact on the ball and heel of the foot, providing grip even in glare ice conditions.

With a little help from Coastwide, slips and falls on icy walkways will become a thing of the past. Maintain a safe work environment this winter with Coastwide® Snow and Ice Melter. Ice Melter’s non-corrosive formula acts quickly and effectively to melt snow and ice, even under the most extreme conditions. It provides a slip-resistant surface on sidewalks, loading docks, driveways, and parking lots. This advanced formula is non-toxic to children and pets, and will not harm trees and vegetation.

- Effective to -20°F (-29°C)
- Contains special anti-caking agents that prevent hardening during storage
- Does not contain calcium chloride or magnesium chloride
- Will not damage leather, flooring, or carpets; no oily residue

Get prepared for unpredictable weather. Stock up to ensure slip and fall protection with Coastwide® Snow & Ice Melter.

The Ultimate Winter Essential: Make Hand Hygiene a Priority

Hand hygiene is critical to a healthy workplace and classroom. Flu season is right around the corner. Preventative measures should include washing with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. According to Public Health Experts, alcohol-based hand rubs are strongly recommended for routinely decontaminating hands if they are not visibly soiled. Wash hands with soap and water when hands are visibly dirty or contaminated.

The steps of proper hand washing:
1. Wet hands under warm running water.
2. Dispense soap.
3. Rub hands and exposed portions of arms together for 20 seconds.
4. Rinse thorougly.
5. Dry with clean paper towels. Turn taps off using towel.

How to use hand sanitizers:
1. Place enough product in your palm to thoroughly cover your hands.
2. Rub hands together briskly until dry. Should take approximately 15 seconds.

Because experts agree that most germs that may cause illness are transmitted by hands, it’s critical to wash or sanitize frequently during these times: before you eat, after using the restroom, after sharing electronics, when you cough, sneeze or blow your nose, before you enter a classroom (so you are not tracking germs in), and before you head back home (don’t take germs with you!).