

An official website of the United States government.



Disinfectant Use and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2

[View List N, a searchable and sortable list of products for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel human coronavirus that causes COVID-19.](#)

EPA reviews and registers antimicrobial pesticides, which include disinfectants for use on pathogens like SARS-CoV-2, the novel human coronavirus that causes COVID-19. [View frequent questions about disinfectants and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\).](#)

On this page:

- [Registering disinfectants in response to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Ensuring availability of disinfectants](#)
- [Taking action against fraudulent products](#)

Registering Disinfectants in Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

EPA has been working to ensure that American families, communities, businesses, hospitals, and others are aware of and have access to effective surface disinfectant products to use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

- As part of the Federal Government's efforts to minimize risks to its citizens, in January 2020 EPA activated—for the first time ever—its Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides. Under this guidance, EPA allows manufacturers to provide the agency with data, even in advance of an outbreak, to show their products are effective against harder-to-kill viruses. Once approved, these companies can make marketing claims for use against the novel coronavirus. [Read the EPA announcement about activating the Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance.](#)

- In early March, EPA released its initial [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#) (List N). This list continues to be updated on a weekly basis. It is searchable and sortable, comes with helpful tips on how to use disinfectants properly, and features frequently asked questions to ensure correct product usage. **As with any EPA-registered product, carefully read the label and only use the product as described in its directions.**
- Also in March, EPA launched an expedited review process for new Emerging Viral Pathogens Claim Submissions in order to add applicable products to List N as quickly as possible. [Read the EPA announcement about expediting emerging viral pathogens claim submissions.](#)

Ensuring Availability of Disinfectants

EPA has partnered with industry to help assure access to the in-demand disinfectant products included on List N. Through close collaboration with disinfectant manufacturers, we've identified several ways we can be more flexible to avoid supply chain disruptions without sacrificing public health and environmental protections:

- Companies no longer need to check in with us first before they switch suppliers for certain inert ingredients. Inert ingredients are the inactive ingredients in a disinfectant product—like sodium chloride or glucose. [Read the press release about switching supplies for certain inert ingredients.](#)
- Manufacturers of products appearing on List N are temporarily allowed to switch suppliers of certain active ingredients without waiting for EPA's approval. These active ingredients include citric acid or ethanol. [Read the press release about switching supplies for certain active ingredients.](#)
- To ensure that List N is updated as quickly as possible with new products from manufacturers who are not currently registered with EPA, we have expedited all requests for company numbers and establishment numbers. [Read the press release to learn more about expediting company numbers and establishment number requests.](#)
- In response to reports of shortages of active ingredients used in the surface disinfectants that are effective against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, EPA is temporarily allowing registrants to notify EPA of certain formulation and manufacturing facility changes and immediately release the product for sale without waiting for EPA approval. [Read the press release about EPA's efforts to reduce shortages.](#)

Taking Action Against Fraudulent Products

Consumers should beware of imposter disinfectant products that are being marketed online with potentially dangerous claims of protection against the novel coronavirus. EPA is working the Department of Justice and other federal agencies to bring the full force of the law against those selling fraudulent or unregistered products. [Read the press release about the EPA Administrator's call with major retailers and third-party marketplaces to ensure that only approved disinfectant products are available for sale.](#)

LAST UPDATED ON MAY 6, 2020