

Products for **DISINFECTING** MIDWIFERY EQUIPMENT

When using reusable equipment, ensure the appropriate level of cleaning and disinfection or **sterilization** is achieved. This table uses **Spaulding's Classification of Equipment and Medical Devices** to categorize the level of cleaning required (i.e. low-level disinfection (LLD), high-level disinfection (HLD) or sterilization) based on the classification of that equipment (i.e. non-critical, semi-critical or critical).

All products used for disinfection need a drug identification number (DIN) from Health Canada, appropriate labelling and storage, and **Safety Data Sheets**. **Personal protective equipment** (PPE) needs to be available for midwives and/or staff using disinfectants and handling contaminated medical devices.

Classification	Definition	Requirement	Examples of Effective Products (excluding products with 10 minute contact times, such as alcohol and Thymol, as these are impractical)				
			Chemical product	Sample Brand	Wet contact time ¹	Cost	Use Considerations
Non-critical	Items that do not directly touch the client or touch only intact skin (e.g. stethoscope, Doppler, sphygmomanometer)	Cleaning followed by LLD	Hydrogen peroxide Enhanced action formulation (0.5%) (1)	Accel PREvention wipes (general use) – by Virox	3 min	\$\$	STEPS: One step cleaner, disinfectant QUALITY: Excellent cleaning ability; broad microbicidal spectrum. Generally incompatible for use on copper, brass, carbon and anodised aluminium (1) TOXICITY: Non-toxic; environmentally safe (1)
				Accel INTERvention wipes (during outbreak) – by Virox	1 min	\$\$	
				Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes	5 min (1 min if no TB / fungi present)	\$	
			Chlorines (e.g. bleach)	Clorox Healthcare bleach germicidal wipes	3 min	\$	STEP: If chlorine only, does not clean. If paired with a surfactant cleans and disinfects in one step QUALITY: Excellent disinfectant; broad microbicidal spectrum (2) Toxicity: None reported. May cause irritation; use gloves. (4) Use in well-ventilated areas. May cause staining
			Quaternary ammonium compounds (QUATs)	CaviWipes	3 min	\$	STEPS: 2 step disinfectant: use wipe to clean, then another wipe to disinfect QUALITY: Good cleaning ability, but narrow microbicidal spectrum; limited use as disinfectant (1)
CaviWipes1	1 min	\$		TOXICITY: Not to be used to disinfect instruments; harmful if absorbed through skin (5) Use in well-ventilated areas			

¹The longest wet contact time is used to determine the length of time the product should remain wet (e.g. if the kill claim is between 30 seconds to 3 minutes for different microorganisms, keep surface wet with product for 3 min).

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Classification	Definition	Requirement	Recommendations
Semi-critical	Items that come into contact with non-intact skin or intact mucous membranes, but do not penetrate tissue (e.g., speculum, laryngoscope)	Cleaning followed by HLD at minimum; sterilization is preferred	<i>Sterilization is a more practical and preferred method of cleaning semi-critical medical devices. Since HLD is a complex process, products required to effectively achieve HLD are not listed in this table.</i>
Critical	Items that enter body tissues, allowing for direct contact with the bloodstream (e.g., needle driver, cord scissors)	Cleaning followed by sterilization (i.e., steam sterilization)	<i>Some Ontario midwifery practice groups manage their own reprocessing of critical equipment. Refer to the Midwifery Guide to Reprocessing.</i>

This resource is for educational purposes only. Midwives should modify it to reflect local community standards, current practice, applicable evidence, legislation and CMO standards.

REFERENCES

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infection in All Health care Settings. 2 ed. [Internet] Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario. May 2012. [cited 2018 Mar 21] Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Best_Practices_Environmental_Cleaning_2012.pdf
2. Moriarty, J. Public Health, Region of Peel. Chemical Disinfectants: Unraveling the Mystery. [Internet] Peel, ON. [Publisher unknown] September 2014. [cited 2018 Apr 1] Available from: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/events/pdf/2014/chemical-disinfectants-unraveling.pdf>
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5. The Clorox Company. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) CaviWipes. 2 ed. [Internet] Oakland, CA. March 2016. [cited 2018 Apr 1] Available from: [http://www.metrex.com/sites/default/files/content/education-file/education-file-upload/CaviWipes%20US%20GHS%20SDS%20\(3.23.2016\).pdf](http://www.metrex.com/sites/default/files/content/education-file/education-file-upload/CaviWipes%20US%20GHS%20SDS%20(3.23.2016).pdf)