

# INSTRUMENT DISINFECTION CHART

FOR PERSONAL SERVICE SETTINGS

**REMEMBER:**  
You **MUST** clean, rinse, and dry instruments before disinfecting

LEVEL OF DISINFECTION	WHEN TO USE	WHAT TO USE	CONTACT TIME	EXAMPLES OF ITEMS
High-level	<p>Equipment and instruments or items that do not usually penetrate the skin, but are intended to come in contact with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose, mouth, ears or anus</li> <li>• Non-intact skin</li> </ul> <p>With the exception of chlorine bleach, other high-level disinfectants should have a class 2 medical device license.</p>	Bleach 5000 ppm (3.5 tbsp of bleach* + 2 cups of water)	10 minutes <b>Tip:</b> Solution must be changed daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reusable scalpel handles</li> <li>• Microblade handles</li> <li>• Nippers, clippers, etc. with blood/body fluid contact</li> <li>• Double looped comedone and microdermabrasion equipment</li> <li>• Grater-style foot file</li> <li>• Items that hold/manipulate/contact sterile items (e.g., needles, blades)</li> <li>• Scissors used to cut cannulas (insertion tubes)</li> <li>• Tweezers used on ingrown hairs</li> </ul>
		≥ 6% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action formulation)	Follow manufacturer's instructions	
		2% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action formulation)		
		0.55% orthophthalaldehyde		
Intermediate-level	<p>Equipment and instruments or items that are intended to contact only intact skin, but that may accidentally come into contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes, or penetrate the skin</p>	Bleach 1000 ppm (2 tsp bleach* + 2 cups of water)	10 minutes <b>Tip:</b> Solution must be changed daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nippers, clippers, nail cutters, cuticle pushers</li> <li>• Metal/glass nail files</li> <li>• Spatula</li> <li>• Tweezers to remove hair from hair follicle and apply fake lashes</li> <li>• Facial brushes and other equipment used for facials contacting intact skin</li> <li>• Footbaths</li> <li>• Reusable UV eye goggles</li> <li>• Diamond drill bit</li> <li>• Laser heads, tips and wands</li> <li>• Reusable metal dremel bit</li> <li>• Scissors that accidentally come in contact with blood or body fluids</li> <li>• Foot files with removable adhesive stickers or metal foot files</li> </ul>
		70-90% isopropyl/ethyl alcohol with a Natural Product Number (NPN)	10 minutes <b>Tip:</b> Solution must be changed after each use	
		0.5% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action formulation) with efficacy claims against tuberculosis (TB) or mycobacteria	Follow manufacturer's instructions	
Low-level	<p>Equipment and instruments or items that do not directly contact the client, or contact only hair or intact skin. Can be used for disinfection of environmental surfaces and for routine housekeeping</p>	Bleach 100 ppm (1/4 tsp of bleach* + 2 cups of water)	10 minutes <b>Tip:</b> Solution must be changed daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combs and brushes</li> <li>• Hair rollers, crochet hooks for hair highlights, hair clipper blades and guards</li> <li>• Scissors used to cut hair or single-use wax strips</li> <li>• Service trays and bowls</li> <li>• Tables, chairs and beds</li> <li>• Floors and walls</li> <li>• Containers used to hold sterile packaged tweezers or other sterile equipment or instruments</li> <li>• Handles and cradles for shaving razor used on intact skin</li> <li>• Dremel handle</li> <li>• Manicure bowls and trays</li> <li>• Callus blade holder</li> </ul>
		Quaternary ammonium	Follow manufacturer's instructions	
		3% hydrogen peroxide or 0.5% hydrogen peroxide (enhanced action formulation)		
		Phenols		

\*Please note that the bleach recipes above are calculated with a 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution

**NOTE:** Critical equipment/instrument that penetrate the skin (used for an invasive procedure) and some equipment that hold sterile items must be cleaned followed by **STERILIZATION**. UV light "sterilizers" or glass (hot) bead "sterilizers" are not acceptable methods of sterilization.

York Region Public Health does not promote or contest the use of any brand named products listed. This is not an exhaustive list of all products sold; it only represents examples of some of the products used in personal service settings. This chart is designed to help you understand and find an acceptable disinfectant. All disinfectants used must be accompanied by a Drug identification Number (DIN) or Natural Product Number (NPN) assigned by Health Canada (exception, chlorine bleach).