

Wisconsin HAI Education Series

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES



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Infection Prevention in Environmental Services (EVS)

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Wisconsin Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program

Disclaimer

- The Wisconsin HAI Prevention Program is non-regulatory.
- There is no affiliation with any facilities or products.
- All content is based on current guidance and best practices.
- No financial disclosures.

Infection Prevention in EVS

Core Components

Core components of an EVS program include:

- Integrating it into the culture of safety.
- Educating and training staff.
- Selecting appropriate products and technology.
- Standardizing protocols.
- Monitoring effectiveness.
- Providing feedback.

Common Gaps Observed

- Not following dwell time.
- Improper or inadequate preparation and labeling of chemicals.
- Variation in cleaning and disinfection methods.
- Misunderstanding common principles.

Infection Prevention and Control Playbook



Cleaning vs Disinfection

Cleaning: A process that removes visible soil from items and surfaces.

Disinfection: A process that eliminates many pathogenic microorganisms, but not spores.

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Types of Disinfection

Low-level
disinfection

Intermediate-
level
disinfection

High-level
disinfection

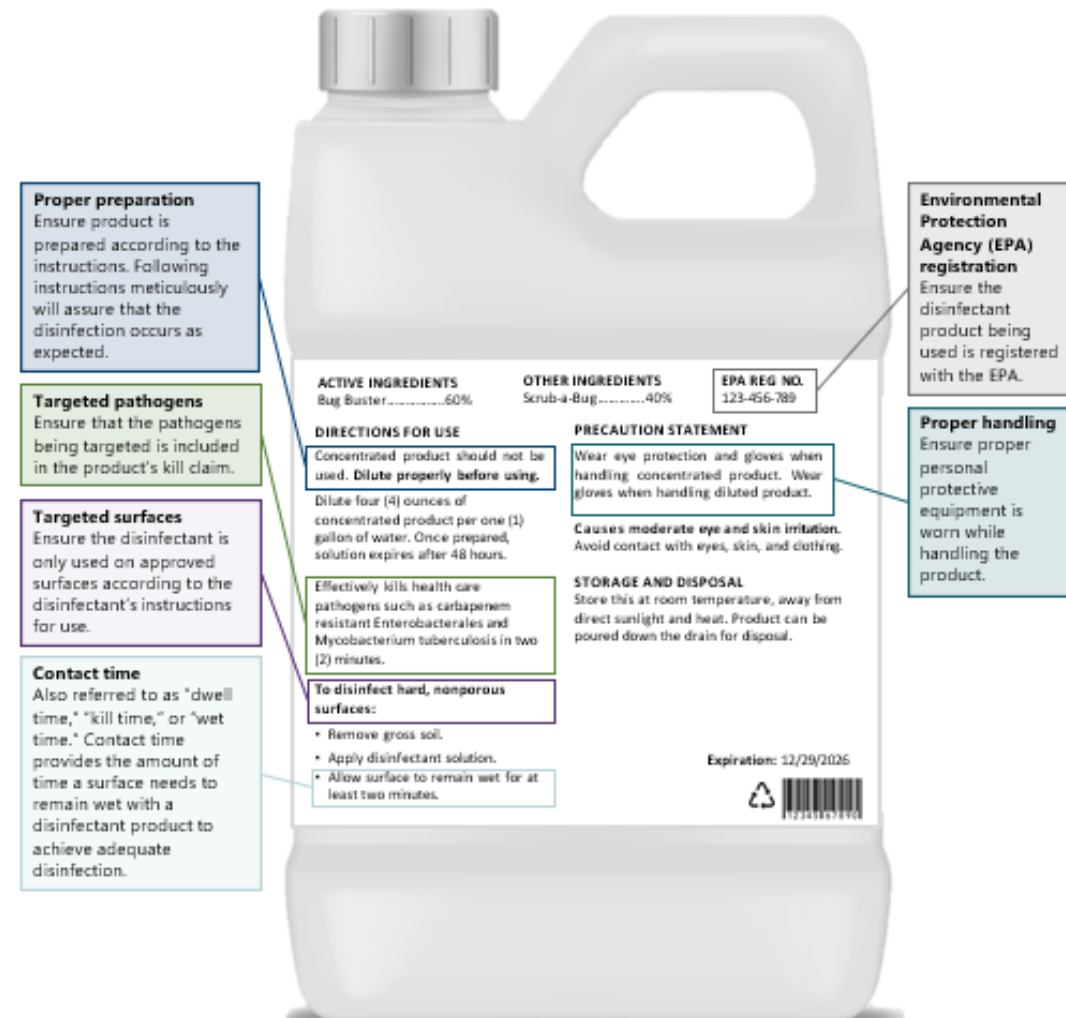
Foundations of Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Products

Know Your Products

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved
- Dwell time
- Effective against targeted organisms

Reading a Disinfectant Label

Disinfectant labels are printed on or attached to the product container. Labels provide valuable information on how to use the product properly. It is important to read and understand the instructions for use before using a disinfectant product.



Preparing Products

- Ready-to-use products are preferred in many situations.
- When dilution is required, automated dispensing systems are preferred over manual preparation.



Manual Preparation

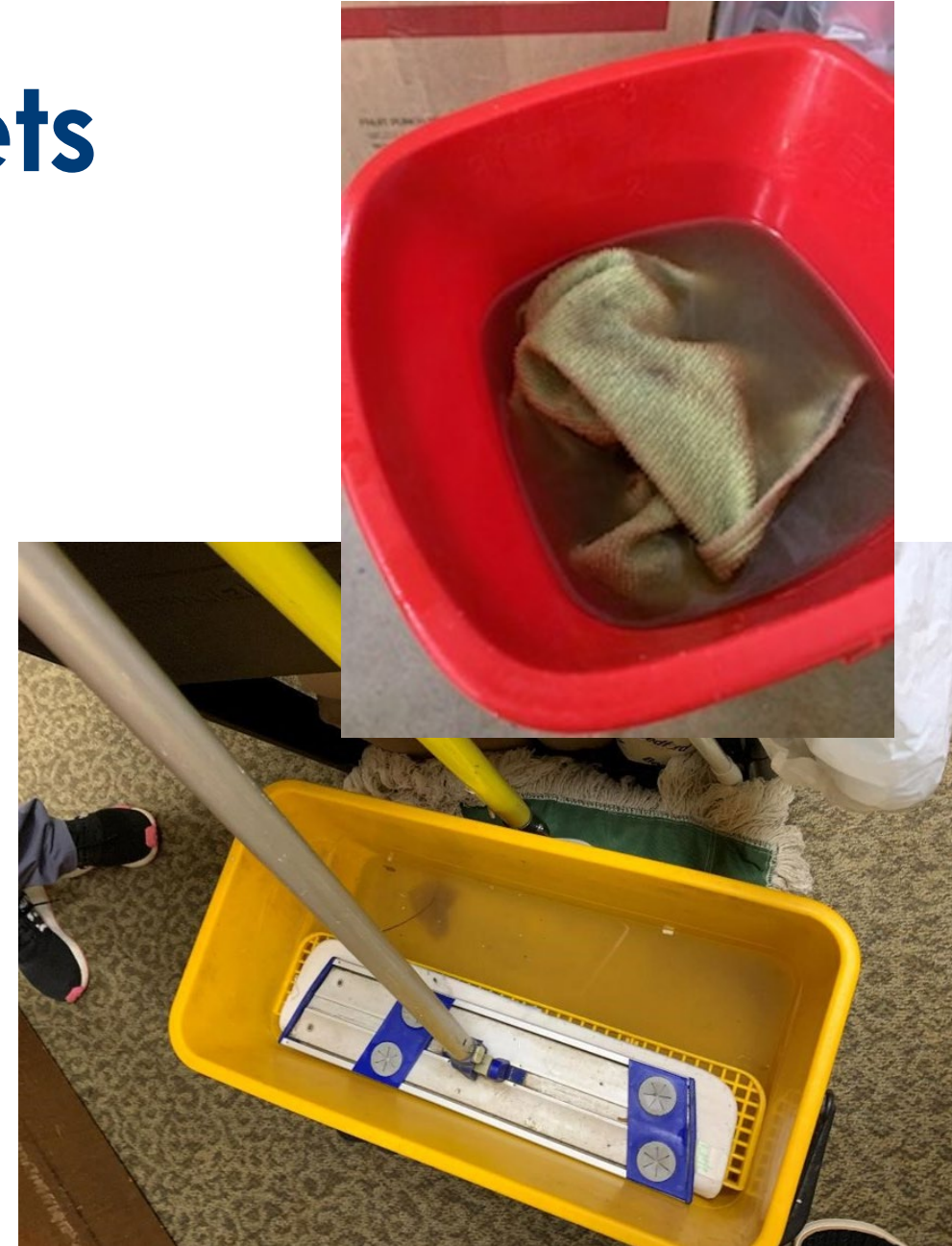
- Follow instructions for use (IFUs).
- Wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE).
- When diluting, place water in the container first, followed by disinfectant to prevent chemical splashes.

Automated Dispensing Systems

- Use compatible products.
- Work with the manufacturer for proper set-up and maintenance.
- Engage the vendor for training staff.
- Follow IFUs.
 - Some products may require quality control testing.

Products Stored in Buckets

- Develop a process for how often to change the solution.
- Do not “top off.”
- Never “double dip.”
- Clean, disinfect, and dry buckets before refilling, per facility policy.



Products Stored in Reusable Bottles

- Label bottles properly, including:
 - Identity of the disinfectant.
 - Appropriate hazard warnings.
 - Date of preparation and expiration.
 - Contact time.
- Do not “top off.”
- Clean, disinfect, and dry bottle before refilling, per facility policy.



Storage of Cleaners and Disinfectants

- Maintain a designated space for cleaners and disinfectants consistent with IFU.
- Do not commingle clean and dirty items.
- Assess whether eye wash stations are needed.



Housekeeping Carts

- Stock only approved products.
- Keep clean supplies on top and dirty supplies on bottom.
- Never keep personal items such as food and drink on the cart.
- Check preparation and expiration dates.



What Not To Do



Selecting Appropriate Products

Select Appropriate Products

Ensure products chosen are ideal for health care settings, such as those that are:

- Fast-acting, broad spectrum, (EPA) approved, and easy to use.
- Compatible with other products and surfaces it will be used on.
- Safe for the environment.
- Effective against commonly encountered organisms.

Types of Disinfectants

- Facilities can choose from a wide variety of available products.
- Common health care disinfectants include:
 - Chlorine and chlorine compounds (bleach).
 - Hydrogen peroxide.
 - Peracetic acid.
 - Quaternary ammonium (quats).

Targeted Organisms



Targeted organisms can be found:

- On the [EPA registered disinfectants lists](#).
- On the product label.
- In the IFUs.

Cleaning and Disinfectant Product Evaluation Considerations

Product name: _____

CONSIDERATION	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Current product inventory			
Is there a similar product already in use at the facility?			
Will this product replace a currently used product?			
Compatibility with surfaces being disinfected			
Can the product be used according to its instructions for use (IFUs) in our facility?			
Is the product effective for our intended use?			
Is the product effective at decontaminating the type of surface being targeted (porous vs. nonporous)?			
Will the product be used to disinfect medical care equipment?			
Will the product damage or degrade surfaces or device with repeated exposure?			
Contact time			
Is the contact time practical?			

CONSIDERATION	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Possible health risks			
Are there health risks associated with this product as stated in the scientific literature?			
Is the environment for dilution processes appropriate (good air circulation)?			
Is the scent of the product bothersome or offensive?			
Required expertise and training			
Does the disinfectant require staff to measure and dilute?			
Does the disinfectant need to be maintained once prepared for spray bottles?			
Is a vendor-supported auto dilution installation required?			
Do quality controls for product dilution exist?			

Quat Binding

What is it?

- Quat disinfectants are positively charged, and some cleaning cloths are negatively charged, which can cause them to bind.

What to do?

- Do not leave cleaning cloths submerged in quat disinfectants.

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Standardize Protocols

Standardize Cleaning Procedures

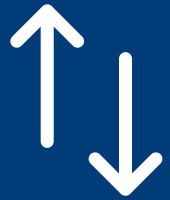
Utilize a risk assessment, considering:

- Patient or resident risk factors such as wounds, indwelling devices, or diarrhea.
- Amount and type of activity occurring in the space being cleaned.
- Pathogens that are frequently encountered.
- Potential for direct contact.
- Potential for contamination.

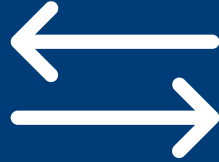
[Daily/Weekly/Monthly] Cleaning

[illegible]

Room Cleaning Procedure



Top to
bottom



Clean to dirty



Methodical
manner

Room Cleaning Procedure

Before entering the room:

- Determine type of cleaning procedure needed.
- Verify whether transmission-based precautions are in place.
- Ensure housekeeping cart is fully stocked with supplies that are not expired.

Room Cleaning Procedure

Upon entering the room:

- Perform a visual assessment.
- Don the appropriate PPE.
- Proceed with cleaning procedure.

Other Room Cleaning Best Practices

- Clean and disinfect in a systematic fashion.
- Use microfiber cloths.
- Practice the 8-fold method.
- Never dip cloths back into cleaner or disinfectant.
- Change cloths often.

Date: _____ Unit: _____ Room Number: _____

Staff Name: _____

Room Cleaning Checklists

- Create a standardized checklist for cleaning rooms.
- Provide clear instructions that follow a logical order.

Step	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Not applicable	Comments
Perform hand hygiene (HH)				
Don personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and gown, per facility policy				
Remove trash				
Remove linens				
Move soiled equipment to soiled utility room, per facility policy				
Discard unused supplies such as toilet paper and tissues				
Check and remove sharps container as needed				
Check and replace soap, alcohol based hand rub (ABHR), and batteries for automatic dispensers, as needed and per				
Inspect mattress and other furniture for cracks and tears;				
High dust vertical and horizontal surfaces				
Dust vents				
Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces, ensuring proper dwell				
Clean and disinfect the patient/resident area, ensuring proper dwell time is achieved				
Damp disinfect all vertical surfaces, ensuring proper dwell				
Place cloth into soiled bag				
Clean and disinfect the bathroom with fresh cloth(s)				
Place cloth(s) into soiled bag				
Remove gloves and perform HH				
Put on fresh linens and restock supplies, per facility policy				
Dust mop the floor, then damp mop the floor with cleaner and/or disinfectant, per facility policy				
Remove gloves and perform HH				

Train Staff

- Provide training upon hire, at least annually, and whenever products, equipment, or processes change.
- Include EVS as well as ancillary staff.
- If EVS is contracted, develop a relationship with their leadership to ensure training meets your facility's expectations.

Monitor Effectiveness

Determine:

- Who will perform monitoring.
- What time of monitoring will be performed.
 - Direct observation
 - Fluorescent gel
 - Adenosine triphosphate (ATP)
- How frequently monitoring will occur.



Provide Feedback

- Share results of monitoring with EVS staff.
- Present data at quality committees to drive improvement and celebrate wins!

Infection Prevention Tools and Resources

EVS Product Cards

At-a-glance resource to remind EVS staff of which products are available, their intended use, PPE required, dwell time, and other relevant information.

Product Name: *Germ-Buster 5000*



i Product use:

Use a microfiber cloth to wipe common touch points in the facility

🛡️ PPE required:

Gloves



Eye protection



🕒 Contact time:

2 minutes

📝 Notes:

Once prepared, solution expires after 48 hours. Store at room temperature, away from direct sunlight.

Cleaning and Disinfection Schedule

Facilities may choose to implement daily, weekly, and monthly cleaning checklists to ensure the cleaning and disinfection schedules and protocols are being fulfilled.

[Daily/Weekly/Monthly] Cleaning

[illegible]

EVS Process Audit Form

Use and modify the template to perform regular audits of room cleaning. The tool automatically generates graphs and data visualizations.

Environmental Services (EVS) Process Audit Form

Date: _____ Unit: _____ Room Number: _____

Staff Name: _____

Step	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Not applicable	Comments
Perform hand hygiene (HH)				
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Remove gloves and perform HH				

Questions?

Contact Information

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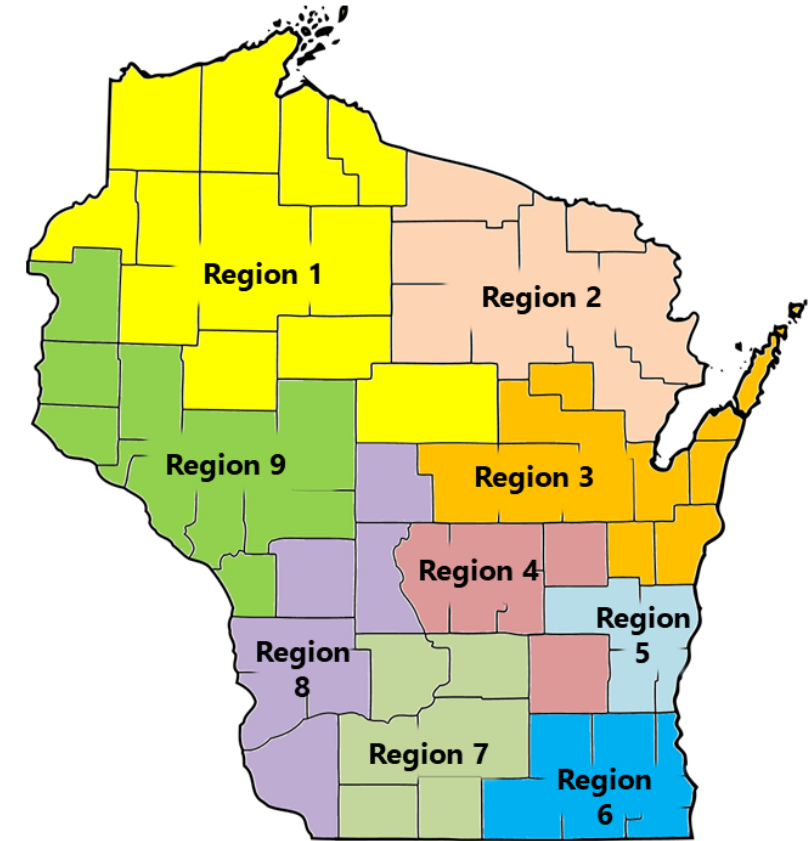
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HAI Infection Prevention Education webpage



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HAI Infection Prevention Education

IPs play an essential role in facility infection prevention policy development, surveillance, and risk assessment. IPs also serve as a resource to other staff and programs within their facilities. The resources on this page are intended to connect health care facility infection preventionists (IP) with education materials to support their role in preventing, detecting, and responding to healthcare-associated infections (HAI).

Webinars

HAI Education Series

The HAI Education Series provides educational presentations on topics including infection prevention, HAIs, antibiotic stewardship, disease surveillance, and outbreak response for health care staff in all setting types, local and Tribal health departments, and other health care partners. Each session features a new, timely topic presented by the Department of Health Services (DHS) program staff, HAI infection preventionists, partner organizations, or other external subject matter experts.

The HAI Education Series is a monthly webinar series, typically held the fourth Thursday of each month. Register for the [HAI Education Series](#)

HAI Education Series recordings



Upcoming HAI Education Session

Date: September 24, 2026

Topic: Measles Readiness



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