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The best disinfectants for combating coronavirus: EPA alert

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AP

The US Environmental Protection Agency is warning consumers that some disinfectants won't stand up to coronavirus — and declaring which popular brands actually *can* stop it from spreading.

The EPA's official list documents the only products "qualified for use against COVID-19" through the agency's Emerging Viral Pathogen program, which requires manufacturers to provide data showing their products "are effective against harder-to-kill viruses." It includes popular household brands, such as Clorox, Lysol and Purell.

They refer to COVID-19 as an enveloped virus, "meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant product," the agency wrote in a news release.

"Using the correct disinfectant is an important part of preventing and reducing the spread of illnesses along with other critical aspects such as hand-washing," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "EPA is providing this important information in a public and transparent manner on disinfectant products to help reduce the spread of COVID-19."

Top brands on the EPA's registered disinfectant list:

- Clorox Disinfecting Wipes
- Clorox Disinfecting Spray
- Clorox Multi-Surface Cleaner + Bleach
- Klercide 70/30
- Lonza Formulation
- Lysol Clean & Fresh Multi-Surface Cleaner
- Lysol Disinfectant Max Cover Mist
- Lysol Heavy-Duty Cleaner Disinfectant Concentrate
- OxyCide Daily Disinfectant Cleaner
- Peak Disinfectant Wipes
- Peroxide Multi Surface Cleaner, Disinfectant and Glass Cleaner
- Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant Wipes
- Sani-Cloth Prime Germicidal Disposable Wipe
- Sani-Prime Germicidal Spray

The EPA also advised consumers that some products “may be marketed and sold under a variety of names,” and to refer to the EPA Registration Number (EPA Reg. No.) on the product label, which should reflect its parent company. Consumers can cross-reference that reference number against their Emerging Viral Pathogen list.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, virus disinfection requires “diluted household bleach solutions [or] alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol” and added that “most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.”

The CDC also recommends a list from the American Chemistry Council’s Center for Biocide Chemistries, which includes EPA-approved anti-microbials that are effective against even stronger pathogens than coronavirus, including norovirus and Ebola.

Most importantly, the EPA reminds Americans to read the product’s instructions as different brands have different requirements in terms of “contact time for the product on the treated surface.”