



Practical tips

Spray disinfection of surfaces

It's in your hands –
infection prevention in veterinary medicine



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Spray disinfection of surfaces

The use of alcohol spray disinfectants to disinfect surfaces is always a cause for discussion. The following statements can be made on this subject:

Disinfectants are designed to kill or inactivate microorganisms and therefore also damage human live cells if used improperly. When alcoholic surface disinfectants are sprayed, small droplets are released into the air which can be inhaled or settle on the skin.

In addition to the potential health hazard, spray application of disinfectant is likely only to result in incomplete wetting of the surfaces if not wiped with a cloth.

Spray disinfection is not prohibited, however, but it should be minimized as far as possible in accordance with the specifications in the RKI recommendation for surface disinfection and "... should therefore only be limited to areas that cannot be reached by wiping disinfection" (RKI recommendation "Hygiene requirements for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces", October 2022).

A detailed statement on this subject was published by the Disinfectants Committee at the Association for Applied Hygiene (Verbund für Angewandte Hygiene – VAH, Questions and answers about antiseptic and chemical disinfection measures, November 2007). The advantages and disadvantages are highlighted here and, among other things, it is stated:

"Small areas which are often difficult to access ... are often underestimated in their importance as sources of infection. If used correctly, spray disinfection can be a useful replacement for or supplement to wipe disinfection."

Proper use involves observing the following principles:

- Spraying should not be used where wiping is possible.
- As a general rule, only small surfaces may be disinfected using spray disinfection.
- Spray as close to the surface as possible.
- After spraying, the surfaces must be wiped down until they are completely wet.
- Ensure that the rooms are adequately ventilated.
- Spray as little as possible in the areas where work continues.

The following alternatives are available from the B. Braun product range for rapid disinfection without spraying:

- **Meliseptol® Foam V** – disinfection foam for alcohol-sensitive surfaces
- **Meliseptol® Wipes sensitive** – ready-to-use wipes for alcohol-sensitive surfaces
- **Meliseptol® Wipes acute** – for alcohol-resistant surfaces
- **Meliseptol® acute**
- **Meliseptol®**
- **Hexaquant® forte** – concentrate for dilution (2% – 5 minutes exposure time)
- e.g. **Braun Wipes** – cloth dispenser system for filling with (also alcoholic) surface disinfectants