

Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

TENNESSEE PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM: PESTICIDE USE GUIDANCE DURING COVID-19

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Along with the increased use of disinfectants and sanitizers during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in adverse health effects from the misuse of these products. There have also been several fraudulent products produced during this time that potential applicators should be made aware of. Please read and share the following statements from the University of Tennessee Pesticide Safety Education Program (psep.utk.edu).

Be Aware of Fraudulent Pesticide Claims Related to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

It has come to our attention that unregistered disinfectants claiming to protect against the virus are being marketed in the U.S. The efficacy and safety of these products is unsubstantiated and their use is illegal. Regulators are taking steps to prevent such products from reaching the market, but it is your responsibility to use only those products designated by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list (epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2) and cross reference them with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of

Industry and Consumer Services, Pesticide Section's list for use against SARS-CoV-2 (agriculture.tn.gov/listproducts.asp).

Please check these lists frequently, as content is subject to change. Products must be registered with both the EPA and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

Be Safe Disinfecting Your Home

Disinfectants are pesticides and you can only use them as directed by the label.

Therefore:

- **Never** mix different disinfectant products together because doing so is dangerous. For example, mixing bleach with acids (such as vinegar) or ammonia releases life-threatening toxic fumes.
- **Never** use disinfectants or disinfectant wipes on your skin. Instead, wash with soap and water; you can also use hand sanitizer on your hands.
- **Never** wash fruits and vegetables with soap, sanitizers or disinfectants as this could also result in poisoning. Wash produce only in clean water.

Pesticide Use Guidance During COVID-19

For more information on disinfecting your home and how to handle food during this crisis, visit either of the three urls listed below.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/disinfecting-your-home.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/disinfecting-your-home.pdf)

extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/D89.pdf

instituteforfoodsafety.cornell.edu/coronavirus-covid-19/food-safety-recommendation-consumer



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