



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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How to Determine Contact Time for EPA Registered Disinfectants

“Approved Disinfectants” under **15A NCAC 18A .2801(2)** are defined as:

(2) "Approved Disinfectant" means a chlorine solution containing 500 to 800 parts per million (ppm) of chlorine or a disinfectant as defined at 40 C.F.R. 158.2203 that is registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with 40 C.F.R. 152 with use indicated in schools and child care settings and that is prepared and maintained in accordance with Rule .2812(i) of this Section.

To determine the contact time for an EPA registered disinfectant, an EHS should review the instructions on the product label and determine what is listed as the contact time for a general disinfectant. This contact time is determined during the registration process based on evaluation of the disinfectant’s effectiveness against two organisms and an alternate: *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella enterica* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Companies can add additional contact times for other pathogens, some contact times may be shorter as in the case of certain viruses, and some may be longer as in the case of HepA or pathogenic fungus. These are voluntary claims that the companies make based on the products’ performance and marketing objectives. These voluntary claims do not change the contact time for use as a general disinfectant.

If the contact time for use as a general disinfectant cannot be determined by the products label, then the EPA Registration information should be reviewed, and the contact time for *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella enterica* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, will be the required contact time for use as a general disinfectant. EPA Registration information can be found by searching the EPA Registration number from products label at:

<https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1>

REFERENCES:

Rules Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Centers 15A NCAC 18A .2800

EPA [Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act \(FIFRA\)](#)

EPA [Pesticide Product and Label System](#)

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