

Table 3b. Summary of Practical Disinfectants (ref 20)

Disinfectants Type Category		Important Characteristics											
		Effective Shelf Life (>1wk. ^A)	Corrosive	Flam- mable	Explosion Potential	Residue	Inactivated by Organic Matter	Compatible for Optics ^B	Compatible for Electronics	Skin Irritant	Respiratory Irritant	Eye Irritant	Toxic ^C
Liquid	Quat Ammon	+					+	+		+		+	+
	Phenolic	+	+			+				+		+	+
	Chlorine		+			+	+			+	+	+	+
	Iodophor	+	+			+	+			+		+	+
	Ethanol	+		+								+	+
	Isopropanol	+		+								+	+
	Formaldehyde	+				+				+		+	+
	Glutaraldehyde	+				+		+		+		+	+
Gas	Ethylene Oxide	NA ^D		+ ^E	+ ^E			+	+	+	+	+	+
	Paraformaldehyde	NA		+ ^F	+ ^F			+	+	+	+	+	+

^A Protected from light and air

^B Usually compatible, but consider interferences from residues and effects on associated materials such as mounting adhesives

^C Skin or mouth or both—refer to manufacturer's literature and /or Merck Index

^D NA-Not Applicable

^E Neither flammable nor explosive in 90%CO₂ or fluorinated hydrocarbon, the usual form

^F At concentrations of 7 to 73% by volume in air, solid-exposure to open flame