

Table 2. Factors That Can Influence the Effectiveness of Disinfectants.

Factors Affecting Disinfectants	Aldehyde	Chlorine-Releasing Agent	Iodophor	Quaternary Ammonium Compound	Phenols and Bisphenols	Peroxygen
Organic matter	inhibits effectiveness	inhibits effectiveness	some inhibition of effectiveness	inhibits effectiveness	slightly inhibits effectiveness	inhibits effectiveness
Low temperature	inhibits effectiveness	slightly inhibits effectiveness	slightly inhibits effectiveness	inhibits effectiveness	inhibits effectiveness	slightly inhibits effectiveness
pH needed for maximum effectiveness	alkaline	acid	acid	acid	alkaline or acid	acid
Residual effects	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
Interaction with soaps	compatible	not compatible	compatible	not compatible	compatible	compatible