Do commercial businesses need a WSDA Pesticide License to apply disinfectants and sanitizers*?

Disinfectants and sanitizers—excluding hand sanitizers regulated by FDA—are pesticides. However, under current state policy, you are not required to obtain a pesticide license to apply non-restricted disinfectants or sanitizers to structures, surfaces, etc., even as a commercial business. If you will be applying a disinfectant or sanitizer that is classified by EPA as Restricted use, you must obtain a pesticide license. To protect public health, businesses need to meet the following requirements.

**Follow the Label**

_The pesticide label is the law._ Disinfectants and sanitizers are considered pesticides, and federal and state law requires you to read and follow the label. In addition to other important information, the label includes:

- How to protect the applicator, other people, and domestic animals that may come in contact with the pesticide, and the environment.
- Directions for use specific to the site of application and virus or bacteria you intend to control.
- Dilution requirements
- How to properly dispose of any unused product and containers.

Any deviation from the label could result in fines up to $7,500 per violation.

To find general information about pesticide labels, visit [npic.orst.edu/outreach](http://npic.orst.edu/outreach) and see the graphic “Protect your Health, Read the Label.”

**Check EPA's Approved List**

If you will be using these products to control COVID-19, WSDA recommends that you verify the product has qualified for use against this virus. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a list of EPA-registered pesticides that meet their criteria for use against COVID-19. Search for [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](http://epa.gov) on epa.gov.

**Become Properly Insured**

For businesses that apply or wish to apply disinfectants and sanitizers* as a service, we recommend you contact your insurance agent. Some policies covering pest control services do not include the application of disinfectants.

**License Your Business with Department of Revenue**

Contact the Department of Revenue’s Business Licensing Service (dor.wa.gov) for more information about licensing a business in Washington State.

For further information, please contact WSDA:

- For pesticide licensing questions: 877-301-4555 or License@agr.wa.gov
- For product registration questions: 877-301-4555 or Pestreg@agr.wa.gov
- For compliance questions: 877-301-4555 or PCompliance@agr.wa.gov

*Disinfectants and sanitizers refer to surface-applied antimicrobial pesticides registered with EPA for control of pathogens.*