

Advisory:

- **Safe Hand-Sanitizers for Disinfecting Bare Skin**
- **FDA Warning on Potentially Toxic and Ineffective Hand-Sanitizers**

Applies to: Health & Safety Guidelines for In-Premise and Customer-Facing Energy Efficiency Audits and Upgrades

**In: Residential (1-4 Units) Buildings
Commercial & Industrial Buildings
Multifamily Buildings (5+ Units)**

Description: The current requirements for Level 2, Level 3, and Alternate Level 3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) include using a disinfectant (spray or wipe) on clothing and bare skin if clean clothing or coveralls are not put on when entering a living space or occupied space from a work area. (See **Work Clothing Options Advisory** in the [Energy Efficiency Health & Safety Guidance Folder](#).)

The list of EPA-registered disinfectants [[List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#)] states: *These products are for use on surfaces, NOT humans.* This Advisory clarifies which types of products may be used on clothing and bare skin.

EPA-registered sprays or wipes designed for surfaces can be used to lightly treat clothing or shoes/boots. They should not be used on hands, arms, or near one's face.

On bare skin, any *approved* hand-sanitizer may be used, as long as it contains either 60% ethyl alcohol or 70% isopropyl alcohol. However, please see the **FDA warning** below.

FDA Warning: *The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning to consumers that certain hand-sanitizers have been found to contain methyl alcohol, which can be toxic when absorbed through the skin. The FDA has also discovered that some hand-sanitizers contain insufficient amounts of the recommended alcohols (ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol) to be effective.*

Please check the FDA list of hand-sanitizer products considered unsafe or ineffective at: [FDA urges consumers not use certain hand sanitizer products](#) to determine if your hand-sanitizer is acceptable for disinfecting hands and other bare skin.