

Hand Sanitizer Checklist

Technical grade ethanol is used for casual use, and not occupational use in medical services and other high-exposure applications. This ingredient has not undergone the normal purification to reach medical-grade and has excess impurities. These impurities are flavour compounds in food alcohol, but repeated application to skin, or excessive inhalation may lead to side-effects.

If you experience any adverse side effects like headache, shortness of breath, stinging sensations, or dermatitis, cease use immediately, and seek medical attention.

How can I tell the difference between medical and technical grade hand sanitizers?

If it smells like vodka, chemically - like rubbing alcohol, it may be medical-grade.

If it smells like booze (scotch, wine, rye, etc.), it is likely tech-grade.

Do not inhale hand sanitizer. If it has a tech-grade odor you notice as you apply it. May also leave sticky residue.

Use this checklist to add confidence that your hand sanitizer is compliant with Health Canada guidelines. This does not guarantee that a product is risk-free.

Report any incident to [Canada.ca/drug-device-reporting](https://www.canada.ca/drug-device-reporting)

To submit a complaint or concern:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/problem-reporting.html>

<https://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/apps/radar/MD-IM-0005.08.html>

Email: hcinfo.infosc@canada.ca

Telephone: 613-957-2991

Toll free: 1-866-225-0709

Resources

List of hand sanitizers authorized by Health Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/hand-sanitizer.html>

Recalls

<https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2020/73385a-eng.php>

Risk assessment for technical grade ethanol

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/natural-non-prescription/legislation-guidelines/covid19-technical-grade-ethanol-hand-sanitizer/risk-assessment-summary-report.html>

About us

GooforScience is part of Lipid Quality and Utilization team at the University of Saskatchewan. Sarah Purdy (Ph.D.), Fina Nelson (M.Sc.), working with Prof. Martin Reaney (Ph.D.) are researching ethanol purification methods in partnership with Poundmaker Aventures (PMA) and Bioriginal. PMA is a licensed producer of technical-grade ethanol, and Bioriginal is a licenced producer and distributor of surface and hand sanitizer products using technical-grade ethanol. Funding for the research is provided by the Saskatchewan Agricultural Development Fund and Mitacs.

Checklist

Inspect your product		<i>If yes:</i>
Container	Does it look like food?	Store and use away from food
	Does it re-seal?	Transfer to a sealable container with a small mouth. Glass is best.
Additives	Is it carbonated?	This can influence the effectiveness of the product and is not allowed under interim guidelines. <i>Report this product.</i>
Smell/colour	Any cosmetic additives? (lemon, citrus, lavender, etc.)	Producers need to apply for normal Health Canada permits. Avoid unless confirmed.

Check the label for ALL of these things			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Type</i>
Medicinal Ingredients	Ethanol 70-80%	Should be medical grade. Improper labelling has resulted in recalls.	All
	Ethanol (technical grade) 70-80%	Proper label for tech-grade. Includes increased impurities	Technical
	Glycerol 1.45%	Optional	
	Hydrogen Peroxide 0.125%	If labelled 1.25% product should be flagged for recall: Label is wrong, or product will cause stinging.	All
Non-medicinal Ingredients	Water, carbomer or similar gelling agent.	Ingredients may vary.	All
Licence number	DIN, NPN, FDC	Check this against the list of approved products.	All
Directions for use	Use on unsoiled hands. Supervise children when they use this product.		All
	Adults only. Remove or cover "supervise children ..."	Children should not use these products.	Technical
	Do not inhale. Not to be used on broken or damaged skin	Because of increased organic fermentation products.	Technical
	Do not use if you are pregnant or breastfeeding	Because of acetaldehyde.	Technical
Warning	Flammable		All
Product Information	Manufacturer/distributor name and location.		All
	Lot number, expiry date		All