

Disinfecting Tools, Equipment, Pots, Flats and Benches

Prewash tools, benches, and equipment to remove soil and plant debris because disinfectants do not penetrate these well.

Then disinfect as noted below. Rest clean tools in a bucket of disinfectant or on clean newspaper or plastic sheeting or in an empty, clean container. Or, hang them up so that they do not become contaminated with soil or plant debris. Do not walk on greenhouse potting soil, benches, or on equipment that must be kept free of soilborne plant pathogens unless your shoes have been dipped in disinfectant or are wrapped in clean plastic. Pots, flats or other containers which are used year after year can be disinfested along with potting soil by placing them under the cover used to seal in the fumigant if they are of a material compatible with the fumigant (for example, steam for wood, clay; methyl bromide for plastic, wood, clay). Containers can be submerged in a liquid disinfectant for 10 minutes and then allowed to air dry.

When using pruning tools, disinfectant can be carried in a squeeze, spray or mist bottle. Thoroughly wet the cutting surfaces with the disinfectant and allow the tool to drain and air dry. If sap or resin builds up on the tool, scrub this off with a rag that is kept in the disinfectant. Then dip, pour, or spray more disinfectant onto the tool. Let it drain and air dry or let it soak in the disinfectant for 10 minutes. When pruning specifically to remove diseased plant parts, it is best to alternately use 2 tools so that one can soak in disinfectant while the second is in use.

Material	Application	Target Pests
*Trade Name		
Steam or Dry Heat	Heat materials to 180-200 °F for 30 min. under a cover to contain the heat	Bacteria, Fungi, Insects, Nematodes, Weeds
70% Alcohol (grain, rubbing, or wood alcohol)	Dip or swab the object and let dry. Do not rinse.	Bacteria, Fungi, Nematodes
Sodium Hypochlorite (Clorox* EPA reg. no. 5813-50)	Mix 1 gal. in 9 gal. of water. Dip, spray, or brush on and let drain. Rinse metal objects to prevent corrosion.	Bacteria, Fungi, Nematodes
Hydrogen Dioxide (ZeroTol* EPA reg. no. 70299-1, TerraClean* EPA reg. no 70299-5)	Mix as directed by the label. Dip, spray, or brush on or soak tool. Rinsing is not required to prevent corrosion of metal.	Bacteria, Fungi, Nematodes
Quaternary Ammonium (Green-Shield* EPA reg. no. 499-368; Physan*)	Wash floors, benches, cutting knives and other impervious surfaces.	

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