

Hand Sanitizers

Safe Use And Risks

What Are They?

Hand sanitizers are products used to clean the hands when soap and water are not readily available. They are made with ethyl alcohol or ethanol (at least 60% concentration) which helps disinfect the surfaces of your hands.

How To Use

1. Squirt a full pump onto hands
2. Rub into all the surfaces of the hands for at least 20 seconds
3. Make sure to get the tips and in between fingers

Risks



Children are more at risk of accidentally ingesting sanitizer and should be supervised



Remember: Sanitizers are for external use only.



If ingested, hand sanitizers can cause headache, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of coordination, and decreased level of consciousness.



Hand sanitizers should be used before and after each time you touch a shared surface or your face.



Hand sanitizers are flammable liquids, and should be kept in safe areas away from electrical sockets, open flames, and other heat sources.



Harmful Additives

Do NOT use hand sanitizers containing methanol or ethyl acetate. If ingested, the same risks as ingesting ethanol hand sanitizers apply, but additionally, methanol poisoning may cause seizures, blindness, and death. Methanol can also be absorbed through the skin. Ethyl acetate can irritate skin, and cause dryness and cracking. Health Canada is recalling several hand sanitizers from various manufacturers containing these denaturants.



Precautions

- When available, soap and water are always superior to hand sanitizers
- Check the ingredients and avoid methanol or ethyl acetate-containing hand sanitizers
- Do not ingest any hand sanitizer
- Store the products in safe areas away from electrical or heat sources
- Supervise children while they are using hand sanitizers

Sources

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