Glossary

Acid - High acid content: vomit, urine, vinegar, lemon juice

Antibacterial Soap – any cleaning product to which active antibacterial ingredients have been added. These chemicals kill some bacteria. They do not kill viruses. Active ingredients are triclosan or triclocarban.

Aspergillus Niger is a fungus. It causes a disease called black mold on certain fruits and vegetables such as grapes, onions, and peanuts, and is a common contaminant of food.

Bacteria - Single-celled microorganisms which are members of the plant kingdom. Pathogenic bacteria are capable of producing infections and are sometimes referred to as "germs" or "microbes." Some cause infections and disease in animals and humans. The singular of bacteria is bacterium. Most bacteria use organic matter for their food and produce waste products as a result of their life processes.

Bacteriostat - Refers to the action of a product in inhibiting the growth of bacteria, but not necessarily killing them.

Biodegradable - A substance that can be decomposed by bacteria and/or natural environmental factors.

Bleach - Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl) - A low cost oxidizer that is effective in decontamination of blood or other potentially infectious materials. Corrosive to metal. Inactivated by organic matter and relatively unstable in diluted form.

Broad Spectrum Disinfectant - General disinfectant that is recommended in labeling for use against both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria.

Carpet Spotting - Treating spills on carpeted surfaces with chemicals selected for the specific spill. In the health care facility, spots require special attention and disinfection.

Cationic Detergent - Surfactant detergents with a positive charge. Good emulsification of grease and oil can provide deodorizing and germicidal action. Quaternary ammonium compounds fall into the cationic category.

CDC - Center for Disease Control and Prevention - Provides strategies for prevention and control of disease and develops guidelines for proper use of antimicrobial products. The CDC does not test, evaluate or recommend disinfectants, sterilants or antiseptics.

Chaetomium globosum – (C. globosum) – a fungus or mould commonly found in soil, air, and decaying plant material. Species of *Chaetomium* are known to produce mycotoxins but to what extent these toxins contribute to poor indoor air quality or affect human health is not documented. In medical literature some species have been reported to cause disease in immuno-compromised individuals.

Disinfectant - A chemical intended to destroy or inactivate microorganisms on inanimate surfaces. A disinfectant will kill 100% of most vegetative bacteria, but is not capable of destroying bacteria endospores.

Endospore - When a bacterium develops an outer shell (a spore) to protect it from environmental threats - extreme heat, dryness, cold, and toxic chemicals, such as disinfectants.

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency - Responsible for registering all pesticide products.

EPA Establishment Number - A hyphenated, three-part number indicating the facility at which a registered product was manufactured. The first number is the company identification number, the second is the abbreviation for the state where the product was manufactured and the third is the production plant identification number.

EPA Registration Number - Shows that the EPA has registered the product and its label.

FUNGUS – (plural fungi) A group of organisms traditionally included among the plants, but now considered so distinct as to constitute a separate kingdom of their own. Mushrooms are the best known fungi. Fungi cause a wide variety of diseases in humans. A type of infection caused by yeasts and molds Examples: ringworm, athlete's foot

GERMS - Any microscopic organism that can potentially cause disease; includes bacteria, fungi, protozoa and viruses.

Gram-Negative Bacteria - Bacteria that are differentiated from other bacteria by their response to a dye test. Survives in moist areas. Examples: Escherichia coli (E.coli) is primarily a urinary tract infection pathogen. Pseudomonas forms the slime in a vase of cut flowers.

Gram-Positive Bacteria - Bacteria with a thick outer cell wall and defined by response to a dye test. These bacteria are especially deadly. Survives in dry areas. Examples: Streptococcus is primarily a respiratory and intestinal pathogen. Staphylococcus is primarily a skin and wound pathogen.

MRSA - Staphylococcus aureus pathogen resistant to antibiotic Methicillin. Hence: **M**ethicillin **R**esistant **S**taphylococcus **A**ureus

MSDS - **M**aterial **S**afety **D**ata **S**heet - A form required by law which describes hazardous ingredients and risks in handling chemical products.

Nonionic Detergent - A type of chemical which possesses surfactant properties includes surface wetting, soil dispersion, etc. Does not ionize with positive or negative charges. Is compatible in mixtures with either cationic or anionic surfactants. Is not compatible with phenolic (synonym of carbolic acid) germicides. Does not react with positive or negative charge. Is compatible in mixtures with either cationic or anionic surfactants.

Organic Matter - Any material that was recently living or produced by a living organism and is capable of being decomposed.

Oxidation - A chemical reaction where oxygen combines with other substances.

Pesticide - An agent which prevents, repels, destroys or mitigates pests. Includes insecticides, disinfectants, sanitizers, herbicides and rodenticides.

pH - pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. Solutions with a pH less than 7 are considered acidic, while those with a pH greater than seven are considered basic (alkaline). pH 7 is defined as neutral because it is the pH of pure water at 25 °C. ...

ppb - Parts per billion - A measure of concentration of active ingredients.

ppm - Parts per million - A measure of concentration of active ingredients.

Pseudomonas aeruginosa - a Gram-negative bacterium. These bacteria are common inhabitants of soil and water. They occur regularly on the surfaces of plants and occasionally on the surfaces of animals. P. aeruginosa is the epitome of an opportunistic pathogen of humans. The bacterium almost never infects uncompromised tissues, yet there is hardly any tissue that it cannot infect if the tissue defenses are compromised in some manner. It causes urinary tract infections, respiratory system infections, dermatitis, soft tissue infections, bacteremia, bone and joint infections, gastrointestinal infections and a variety of systemic infections, particularly in patients with severe burns and in cancer and AIDS patients who are immunosuppressed.

Protozoa - one-celled organisms like bacteria. Protozoa also love moistures and often spread diseases through contaminated water; causes intestinal infections. Example: Legionnaire's Disease or L. Pneumophila

Shelf-life - Length of time an undiluted product can remain active and effective. Light, temperature, organic matter and metals can affect chemical stability.

Spore - Structure formed by certain microorganisms which enhance their resistance towards heat and chemical disinfectants.

Sporicide - Chemical substance that can destroy or inactivate viruses and all bacteria, fungi and their spores. A sterilant.

Stability - The ability of an antimicrobial product to remain unchanged during storage.

Stachybotrys chartarum (S. chartarum)- is a fungi, commonly known as black mould – produces toxigenic spores that are potentially hazardous, especially when the air-conveyance system is involved. The past twenty years have brought the recognition that an important factor in the health of people in indoor environments is the dampness of the buildings in which they live and work. Furthermore, it is now appreciated that the principal biology responsible for the health problems in such building are fungi rather than bacteria or viruses.

Staphylococcus aureus - Highly resistant gram-positive bacteria. Common human pathogen. It is often responsible for food poisoning, staph infections, skin abscesses and boils.

Surfactant - Agent that reduces the surface tension of water or the tension at the interface between water and another liquid. Wetting agent found in many antimicrobial products.

Toxicity - Ability of a substance to cause damage to living tissue, impairment of the central nervous system, severe illness or death when ingested, inhaled or absorbed by the skin.

Toxicology Testing - EPA methods for the evaluation of potential hazards by cleaners and antimicrobial products.

Triclocarban - The chemical triclocarban is similar in use and structure as triclosan; Triclosan and triclocarban have been used as effective antiseptics in soap since the 1960's.

Triclosan - The chemical triclosan is a synthetic antimicrobial/antibacterial agent whose use has become widespread in toothpastes and mouthwashes, deodorants, cosmetics, fabrics, plastics and other products.

Vibrio Vulnificus - is scarcely recognized by many microbiologists, much less by the public. Yet, in this country, the bacterium causes a disease with over a 50 percent mortality rate, and it causes 95 percent of all seafood-related deaths. V. Vulnificus is a Gram-negative, motile curved bacterium found in marine and estuarine (the area where a freshwater stream enters saltwater) environments and requires salt for growth; is an emerging pathogen of humans. It causes wound infections, gastroenteritis, or a syndrome known as primary septicemia. It was first recognized as an agent of disease in 1976. The first documented case of disease caused by the bacterium was in 1979.