



## What is disinfection ?

Disinfection is a process aiming at killing micro-organisms or inactivating viruses present in infected inert substrates in accordance with precise objectives.

5 different activities are actually implied under the meaning disinfection:

- **Bactericide** : Product killing bacteria
- **Anti-yeast** : Product killing yeasts
- **Fungicide** : Product killing fungi and mould
- **Sporicide** : Product killing bacterial spores
- **Virucide** : Product killing viruses

A disinfecting product can thus have only bactericide properties, whereas other disinfecting products could be at the same time bactericide, fungicide and virucide.

- Micro-organisms are ubiquitous in the environment: water, soil, humans and animals, food...
- Bacteria can settle in any liquid substrate
- Fungi settle in moist substrates

THE HYGIENE OF DRINKING WATER, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR HUMAN HEALTH.

Why is a regular disinfection required ?

The results of the disinfecting process are limited to the micro-organisms present at the time of the disinfection: the disinfection does not prevent subsequent contaminations, which is why it should be repeated regularly.

Disinfection has immediate results to remove or kill micro-organisms and /or inactivate viruses present in infected inert substrates in accordance with set objectives.

The results of this process are limited to the organisms present at the time of the operation. Disinfection should only be launched on clean surfaces.

A regular disinfection decreases the microbial density below the risk level.



What differences are there between disinfection, decontamination, and sterilization?

**Decontamination:** Operation aiming at killing microbes or decreasing their number on live tissues or on inert objects at safe rates, in order to meet public health regulation.

**Disinfection:** Process with immediate results by which micro-organisms, viruses present in infected inert substrates are respectively killed and inactivated.

**Sterilization:** Sterilization is an operation aiming at remove and/or kill micro-organisms present in infected inert substrates, the result of which is a sterility lasting even after the operation.

DIAGRAM OF THE PROCESS :

